



I CAN is the children's communication charity

Their aim is a world where all children have the communication skills they need to fulfil their potential.

The I CAN Enquiry Service is part of I CAN's Family Support.

It is a free service, designed to give parents/carers & practitioners a chance to discuss questions or concerns about a child's speech, language & communication development with one of I CAN's speech & language therapists.

If you are worried about your child's speech & language development, please click on the link below:

<https://ican.org.uk/i-can-s-enquiry-service/>

HANDY TIPS

Talking and playing with your child is good for them and makes life easier for you. These simple tips will help:

Get your child's attention

Face your child or sit down with them. Say their name before you start speaking

Have fun together

Use actions, sing, make noises and funny faces. Don't be shy, being a bit silly helps get their attention and makes them laugh

Comments not questions

Asking lots of questions can feel like it's a test. Make it a conversation. Comment on what they are doing and what is happening

Give them time to think

Children need more time than adults to think about what they've heard, and to decide what to say back. Give them time to respond, and look at them while you wait

Use simple language

Keep your sentences short. For example, "Food time now" or "Wow, you're building a tower"

Repeat what you say

It's good to say the same thing over again. Babies & toddlers need to hear words & sentences lots of times to understand them and learn new words

Make it easier for them to listen

Turning the music, radio or TV off helps children focus on your words

Build on what they say

Adding 1 or 2 words to what they say will help your child onto the next stage of talking: if your child says "bus" you say "Yes, big bus"

Speak in your home language

It's important for children to learn their first words and sentences in their home language

Make it easier for them to talk

Dummies can get in the way of talking. Try to keep them just for sleep times. Take it out to talk

Show them the right way

Show them that you understand, rather than asking them to repeat words correctly. Say the word or sentence again correctly for your child. If they say "Look at the dod", you can say "Yes, it's a dog"

Copy what they say

Repeat back sounds, words & sentences. It shows you're interested & that sounds and words are important