

Language and Literacy for 2-4 year olds

The quality of adult-child interaction can influence a child's opportunities to communicate and can facilitate language development.

Top Tips for effective interaction

These tips will help support the development of children's learning, language and communication.

1. **Sustained shared thinking** (2 way conversation), following the children's lead, the adults model language.
- 2.



Stop – Watch and show interest

Listen

Respond – Describe what child is doing. Repeat what child says or expand by adding in 1 or 2 new words.

3. **10 Second rule** – Ask a question and wait for child to answer
4. Don't ask too many questions. Asking too many questions tends to mean the adult is leading, not the child.
5. **Hand rule** – 1 question to every 4 comments



Recent research indicates that when parents/carers and practitioners work together they can positively affect the language development of children under 5 years.



Your family is in a unique and expert position to describe your child's communication characteristics at home, which may differ from what we see at BMC. As the family, you spend the most time with your child so are well equipped to give us additional information about your perceptions of the child's hearing, play and interaction in the home environment.



[http://www Hungry Little Minds](http://www.hungrylittleminds.com) - Great resource to support effective interaction at home. This online resource provides activities and ideas to support language and communication development in the home for children aged 0 - 5.



[Words for Life](#) Activities for parents and families.