



# Sound Start

Lambton County Preschool Speech & Language Program

## Talking Tips

As parents and caregivers, we want to provide the best for our children in order to give them a “sound start” in their early, yet critical years of communication development. Try the following “talking tips” to help your child develop speech and language skills.



### **Use short sentences and talk about what you or your child is doing.**

Using short sentences and naming objects and activities allows your child to hear the words he would use if he could.



### **Give your child a turn to communicate.**

Wait for your child to tell you something, instead of anticipating her every need. It is important that young children have a reason to communicate!



### **Imitate what your child says or does.**

Imitating your child shows that you are interested in what they have to say or do and it helps your child realize that there is power in communicating. Be sure to speak clearly when you imitate your child so he hears how he should say it if he could.



### **Add a word.**

When talking with your child expand on what she has said by adding another word. For example, if she holds out a glass and says “juice”; you say “want juice” OR “more juice”.



### **Ask questions that give a CHOICE of two answers.**

Offering choices helps children use their words to answer. Try “Do you want apple juice or orange juice?” OR “Is that a doggy or a kitty?”



### **Let your child know you think he has important things to say.**

Try to listen to what your child says rather than how he says it. If you have difficulty understanding his message, let him know if you caught some of what he was saying, and take on some of the responsibility of the communication breakdown, (“My ears aren’t working well today. I know you are trying to tell me something about the dog. Can you try again?”).



### **Make communicating FUN!**

Being animated helps hold your child’s interest. Use facial expressions and vary the sound of your voice. Try to be face to face during play times and follow your child’s lead!