Friday, 01 March 2019

Allied Health Professions

Healthy child, healthy future

Speech and language therapy: Factsheet for parents 6

HSC Public Health Agency

DHSSPS

Tips for talking: children aged 4 to 5 years

Here are some simple ideas to encourage children around this stage:

- **Play simple board games that involve taking turns.**
  This not only helps a child to develop this skill, it also helps them to listen and attend to an activity for longer periods of time.
- **Ask fewer questions to encourage a child to talk more about their experiences.**
  Encourage them to talk without being questioned. Lots of questions we ask children are often easily answered with a yes or a no! Open questions like 'What are you going to play with today?' will encourage them to say more than 'yes' and 'no'. If they find it difficult to answer such open ended questions, it might help to start off by giving them a couple of alternatives, 'cars or animals?'
- **Introduce your child to new words and phrases to help them to continue learning.**
  Don't forget, although a child may know lots of different words, their language is still developing. Having fun with words and rhymes can help children learn skills they need for reading and developing literacy. By learning the differences and similarities between word sounds, a child builds the foundations for reading and writing.
- **Give your child time to think without answering for them or finishing off their sentences.**
  A child may need time to think about things that they have heard or done before answering or responding to questions and instructions. So try to encourage them in their responses by showing them that you are listening to what they are saying.

Produced by the Public Health Agency. Based on text from the Northern Ireland Regional SLT Community Children Sub Group

This factsheet highlights simple ideas to encourage speech in children around 4 to 5 years old.

Details

Format

A4 factsheet

Target group

Parents

Downloads

Attachment	Size
Handout Tips for talking 02_19.pdf	446.36 KB

Tags

- speech and language
- factsheet

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