

Time to  
talk?



**1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 at 2.30pm Giffnock Primary  
Parental Engagement in children's learning  
Time to talk with Jenny Grant Speech and Language Therapist**

At Giffnock Nursery and Primary we work in partnership with a wide variety of agencies. We are fortunate to have the expertise of a broad range of experts to draw upon.

Over the years we have supported families with children who have benefitted from speech and language support. Our link Speech and Language therapist is Jenny Grant. Jenny has kindly offered to host an informal drop in session to share her knowledge on the importance of talk and child development.

Jenny will be available to share ideas and support you with this. If you have any questions it may be useful to share these in advance so we can find the information you may need.

We welcome all our parents and families from throughout the school to come along.

Should you wish any further information please contact me via the school office on 0141 570 7180 or via email at [schoolmail@giffnock.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto:schoolmail@giffnock.e-renfrew.sch.uk)

The Giffnock team look forward to seeing you.

“Learning to read well starts early, and good early language skills are the vital stepping stone. If children do not learn to speak and listen from an early age, along with developing their understanding of the meaning of words and stories, they will struggle to learn to read well when they get to primary school.”

*(Ready to read Closing the gap in early language skills so that every child in Scotland can read well.)*

Be at the heart of your child's learning.



***The following information can be found online via various documents listed for you should you wish to find out more.***

You can greatly improve your child's learning and life chances simply by:

- ✚ Including your child in everyday tasks and making them fun.
- ✚ Getting into the habit of talking, listening and playing together as you go about daily life.
- ✚ Caring about and showing an interest in your child's learning, reactions and communications.
- ✚ Using new and familiar words to extend and enrich your child's vocabulary, knowledge, awareness of sounds and language development.
- ✚ Showing your child how to play, share, take turns, make friends and develop positive relationships. Remembering that your child will learn lots by imitating you ... so be aware of what you do and say!

**(Every day's a learning day, Education Scotland)**

The charity Best Beginnings has [videos about talking, singing and playing with your baby.](#)

*Babies love it when you talk to them, but they also love to be listened to.*

- ✓ *Talk about what you are doing, as you are doing it, such as when having a bath or changing the bedclothes. Your child will begin to match what they are hearing to what you are doing. As your baby babbles, show that you are interested and listening by treating it as a conversation. Remember to leave time for your baby to respond.*
- ✓ *Use all of the senses and talk about what your child can see, hear, feel, smell and taste. When outside, you may listen to and talk about the traffic sounds.*
- ✓ *At home, you could perhaps compare the different colours, sizes and textures of clothes as you load the washing machine.*
- ✓ *Talking and listening together will help to develop your child's communication skills, strengthen relationships and build self-esteem. If you spend time talking and listening to your child from birth, they will know many more words by the time they go to nursery.*

*(Every Day's a Learning Day Page 27)*

## Helping your baby learn to talk

For further information please see:-

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/helping-your-childs-speech/>

### **0-6 months**

**Hold your baby close and look at them** as you talk to them. Babies love faces and will watch you and respond as you talk

**Chat about what you are doing** as you feed, change and bath them

**Sing to your baby** – this helps them tune in to the rhythm of language

**Repeat the sounds your baby makes back to them** – this teaches your baby useful lessons about listening and taking turns in a conversation

**Talk in a sing-song voice** – this helps to keep your baby's attention

### **6-12 months**

**Name and point out things you can both see** – for example, "Look, a cat". This will help your baby learn words and, in time, they'll start to copy you. As your baby gets older, add more detail ("Look, a black cat").

**Start looking at books with your baby** – you don't have to read the words on the page, just talk about what you can see.

**Only offer a dummy when it's time for sleep.** It's hard to learn to talk with a dummy in your mouth. Aim to lose dummies completely by one year. Visit the Talking Point website for more about [how dummies can affect speech](#).

**Play games**, like "peek-a-boo" and "round and round the garden". This teaches your baby important skills like turn-taking, paying attention and listening.

### **12-18 months**

**If your child is trying to say a word but gets it wrong, say the word properly.** For example, if they point to a cat and say "Ca!" say, "Yes, it's a cat". Don't criticise or tell them off for getting the word wrong.

**Increase your child's vocabulary by giving them choices**, such as, "Do you want an apple or a banana?".

**Toys and books that make a noise** will help your child's listening skills.

**Enjoy singing nursery rhymes and songs together** as your baby grows, especially those with actions like "Pat-a-cake", "Row, row, row your boat" and "Wind the bobbin up". Doing the actions helps your child to remember the words.

### **18-24 months**

**Repeat words** – for example, "Where are your shoes?", "They're blue shoes, aren't they?" and "Let's put your shoes on". Repetition helps your child to remember words.

**Use simple instructions** – your child will understand some instructions now, such as "Get your coat" or "Shut the door". Keeping instructions short and simple will help your child understand.

**Try asking "Where's your..."** – ask your child to point to their ear, nose, foot and so on.

- **Limit your child's daily TV time** to no more than half an hour for under-twos. Playing and listening to stories is more helpful when they're learning to talk.

### **2-3 years**

- **Help them build sentences** – your child will start to put simple sentences together around age two. Try to reply using sentences that are a word or two longer. For example if they say, "sock off" say "yes, we're taking your sock off".
- **Get your child's attention** by saying their name at the start of a sentence. If you ask a question, give them plenty of time to answer you.
- **Switch off the television and radio** – background noise makes it harder for your child to listen to you.
- **Talk as you clean** – children this age love to help out. Chat about what you're doing as you do chores like shopping, cooking and cleaning together.

Visit the Talking Points website for [talking milestones from birth to age three](#).

## **How to help your bilingual child**

Lots of children grow up in a family where more than one language is spoken. This can be an advantage to children in their learning. Knowing another language will help the development of their English.

The important thing is to talk to your child in whatever language feels comfortable to you. This may mean that one parent uses one language, while the other uses another. Children adapt to this very well.