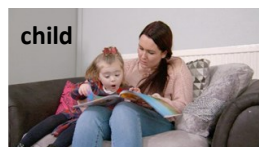
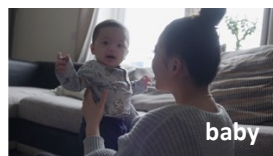
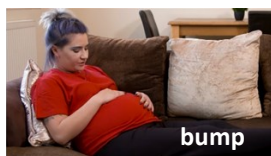


Chatting Together, Parent Club and BBC Tiny Happy People

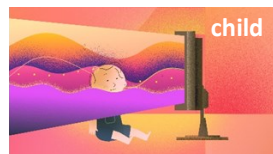
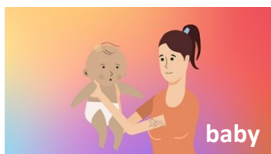
The Chatting Together messages for [bump to baby](#), and for [toddler to young child](#) are available from **Parent Club**, where you will also find downloadable postcards and links to a relevant **BBC Tiny Happy People** video for each message.

See below for additional links for the 'Getting Ready to Chat Together' messages:

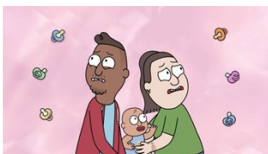
Let's chat and play everyday



Help me to tune in by putting your phone away and turning off the TV



If I nap with a dummy, put it away when I'm alert



Be sure to use your home language or languages



Chatting Together Guide for Early Years Professionals

Why and how to share Chatting Together messages about early language and communication with parents and caregivers

What is Chatting Together?

Chatting Together consists of 4 '**most important things**' that adults can do every day to nurture little ones' early language and communication, while also lighting up their minds and creating a loving connection that will last a lifetime.

Chatting Together helps all little ones including those whose development isn't going as expected.

There are 4 'most important things' for bump to baby stage, and 4 slightly adapted messages for toddlers and young children.

There are also 4 ideas to help families '**get ready**' to chat together by reducing distractions and background noise and encouraging multi-lingual parents to chat in their home languages.

Chatting Together messages are for mums, dads, grandparents, carers, child-minders, early years practitioners and anyone who spends quality time with wee ones.

Why share Chatting Together early interaction messages with parents?

Little ones thrive when their special people lovingly bring language-rich responsive interactions into together time and daily routines. Parents may feel unsure about how to interact with a very young baby, or might not know how important it is to respond to a wee one who is not talking yet.

All parents can make a positive difference for their wee ones when they respond to their needs early and often within nurturing interactions and this is especially important for families affected by poverty and disadvantage.

You can make the difference by gently sharing and modelling the Chatting Together messages with bump, baby and beyond, whenever you spend time with the family. Build parents' confidence by noticing all the little things they are already doing to help their wee one feel safe and happy.

Getting ready to Chat Together

Some families may find it more difficult to 'get ready' to Chat Together. Maybe they have the TV on all day, or they struggle to put their phone down. Can you help parents to make a plan, perhaps some quiet together time after lunch, or leaving their phone in the kitchen while they do bedtime?

Starting a Chatting Together conversation

To help you start a conversation with parents, each Chatting Together postcard includes information on 'why' this matters and 'how' to do it. Parents might not realise all the ways they already support early communication everyday.



ENCOURAGE parents to listen and watch to learn their baby's early signals. Share ideas about how they might respond.



EMPOWER parents by pointing out all the ways they are already connecting with and responding to their wee one, even if they don't realise they are doing it.



MODEL how parents might respond to their wee one to keep the interaction going. Try labelling or commenting in a sing song voice.



HIGHLIGHT links between Chatting Together and other aspects of development, such as attachment, wellbeing, play, learning and social development.



EXPLORE with parents what works for them within their everyday activities. Some parents may find reading tricky or they might not know many nursery rhymes. They might try chatting about the pictures in a book, or making up songs within routines.



CHOOSE a BBC Tiny Happy People video and watch it together. Ask parents what they like about the video and if there is anything they would try at home.



SHARE one of the Chatting Together postcards with parents, helping them to understand why it matters and how to do it.

Let's keep on Chatting Together—little changes can make a big difference

Chatting Together messages are powerful:

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in reported developmental concerns at the 27–30 month Child Health Review. The highest reported concern is in Speech, Language and Communication development, with the highest levels found in areas of multiple deprivation ([Public Health Scotland](#)).



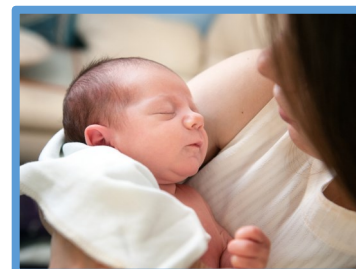
Language and communication skills are foundational to relationship building, social and emotional skills, wellbeing outcomes and literacy development.

Families value the advice and support from early years professionals, but can sometimes feel overwhelmed or confused when there are too many messages to take on board.

By sharing the same 4 Chatting Together messages, practitioners including midwives, health visitors, family nurses, speech and language therapists, childminders, early years practitioners and others can provide parents with consistent and clear information and advice.

This guide aims to give early years professionals an understanding that they can share with parents and carers, of why 'early and often' responsive interaction is so incredibly powerful and important for brain development and wider wellbeing.

Research tells us that parents and carers' everyday interactions with their wee ones make a huge difference to how their children learn and develop. When parents feel confident in their use of responsive interactions, this can improve outcomes for their children.



Having just one consistently responsive adult in their life, can make a huge difference to a child's language and communication skills.

Chatting Together messages are based on strong evidence about what really helps little ones. Click on this [link](#) to find out more about the evidence that underpins Chatting Together.