

Parent films – 2-3 years fact box

The Communication Trust has launched *Through the Eyes of a Child* – a series of four short films, highlighting how children learn to speak, listen and interact with their parents or carers.

In this fact box, you will find ideas on how the film clips could be shared with parents, to highlight important messages around language development. Below is a brief summary of each film clip, with some background information and questions for discussion that could be shared with parents.

Links are made with our *Small Talk* booklet and a summary of key messages given. For more detailed information on speech and language development and what to expect at different ages and stages, download or order *Small Talk* www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/resources

If parents are concerned about their child's speech, language and communication development they can find more information from the *Talking Point* website www.talkingpoint.org.uk

Key messages from film

- If you watch TV with your child, talk about what's happening, and play games once the programme is over
- Try not to ask too many questions – give your child time to respond to you
- Clear, simple instructions will help your child understand what to do
- Remember to keep dummies for sleep times
- Don't try and get children to correct a word they get wrong, repeat it back to them in the way it's meant to be said and they'll soon pick it up

a. Film clip – watching telly

Dad and his little boy are watching TV together and are talking about what they can see. They are chatting about the programme as they watch. Dad turns over onto a different channel.

Some helpful information

- Watching TV can be a great thing to do with children as they get a little older, though spending too much time or just "zoning out" in front of the telly isn't great
- Age specific programmes for children of this age can be a good starting point for conversations, games and other activities
- For more information see our website <http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/resources/resources/hello-campaign-resources/technology-factboxes.aspx>

For parents

- What programmes does your child like?
- There are lots of games children can play based on their favourite TV programmes – can you think of any your child might like?
- What do you think of the way Dad tries to get him to say spider? Sometimes the best way to help children correct their speech is just saying it right for them – usually they will pick it up
- If you're worried, you can find more advice on the *Talking Point* website www.talkingpoint.org.uk

b. Film clip – supermarket shopping

Dad and his little boy are going to the supermarket. When they arrive he puts his dummy in. Later they are talking about the food in the shop.

Some helpful information

- Dummies are fine for sleep times and bed time, but having a dummy in your mouth for long periods of the day can affect your talking
- Supermarket shopping can be really stressful for parents, but there are ways to make it a little easier on ourselves

For parents

- Imagine you have a lolly or gobstopper in your mouth – or even try it out for real. Try and have a conversation – what is it like?
- Supermarket shopping can be really stressful with children – what ways have you found to make it easier? Share ideas, like talking about the food, where it comes from, what it tastes like and getting children to help etc.
- If you had to give your top tips for making outings more fun and great for conversations, what would they be?

c. Film clip – tidy up time

Dad is getting his little boy to tidy up and is talking about a trip they had recently, but the child isn't really listening.

Some helpful information

- Children can find it really difficult to listen, especially when they are busy playing or doing something else
- It can be too tricky when they have lots of questions or information thrown at them at one time. Saying their name first means you have their attention before you start talking to them

For parents

- Tidying up toys can be something children see as a chore – making it into a game or competition can get it done quickly, with children thinking it's fun. Can you think of how this could work with your child?

- Can you think of a time when your child really struggled to listen or pay attention - could saying their name first or keeping things simple help?
- Are there certain times of day when your child finds it harder to listen than others?

d. Film clip – making a mess

The little boy is playing in the sand and Dad notices the mess he is making.

Some helpful information

- Children can make a huge mess when they get into their games, but often they have no idea that's what they are doing and are concentrating more on the things they are making
- When giving children praise, it's really good to comment specifically on what they have done well

For parents

- Messy play – in sand, water, with paint or Playdoh can cause a big mess but children learn so much from it – have you found any ways for your child to enjoy messy play without causing too much mayhem?
- Children say the funniest things when they are learning how to say new words – have you got any examples you want to share?

Some links to Small Talk

Small Talk has information on what to expect at different ages and stages and how to check this out with your own children. It also has suggestions on what parents might like to do to support communication development.

It might be useful to talk about the things children can do with their talking, aged between 2 and 3 – parents could discuss the things their children are doing and whether any of the suggested activities and ideas are ones they would use:

1. What kinds of things do they say? When are they at their most chatty?
2. Are you noticing new things they seem to understand? Can you think of any examples?
3. What kinds of things do they like to do and play with?
4. How is their speech? Can you understand most of what they say?