

Sentence Users: 3-4 years old

Social Interaction

- Joins in pretend play with other children.
- Responds to adults' requests to share and take turns.
- Listens to and talks to others during activities.
- Looks for somebody to play with or to talk to (seeks interaction).
- Comforts playmates.

HOW CAN I HELP?:

Try having a pretend tea-party or playing pretend shops.

WHAT NEXT?:

Read a story and encourage children to act it out with friends/siblings, or using toys.

Listening and Understanding

- Has a longer attention span i.e. can listen to longer stories and can stay on adult chosen task for longer.
- Follows longer instructions "wash your hands and get your coat" (3-4 part instructions).
- Responds appropriately to questions e.g. "why is...", "what shall we do tomorrow?"

HOW CAN I HELP?:

Repeat instructions if you've not been understood. Say the child's name (get their attention) before giving a longer instruction. Check understanding.

WHAT NEXT?:

Read a story together and ask 'why' questions relating to the story

Talking/Expressive Language

- Talks in sentences most of the time.
- Asks questions "why", "what's that for?"
- Talks about what they have done e.g. "We went to the park. I had a lolly".
- Remembers rhymes/songs and retells familiar stories.

HOW CAN I HELP?:

Repeat/model back what the child has said if they say something incorrectly e.g. they say "I goed to the park", you say "oh you went to the park!"

WHAT NEXT?:

Talk about the past and the future - talk about past experiences.

Speech Sounds

- Understood by people most of the time.
- Still developing some sounds e.g. sh, ch, j, cr, pl, sn, r, th

HOW CAN I HELP?:

If the child says a word that isn't quite right, say it back to them the right way e.g. they say "tup", you say "yes, it's a big cup!"

WHAT NEXT?:

Use lots of words when speaking so that they children hear the sounds said correctly.

Play and Social Development

- Engages in imaginative play.
- Plays co-operatively with other children.
- Starts to enjoy rule based games.

HOW CAN I HELP?:

- If children struggle with rule based games, start by using games with simple rules e.g. rolling a ball to each other.

WHAT NEXT?:

- Increase the waiting time during turn taking games.



Want some more ideas and activities to support your child's communication? Take a look at our resources on Halton's Communication Hub

