

Later Sentence Users: 4-5 years old

Social Interaction

- Waits their turn in simple games.
- Joins in longer conversation.
- Shows concern for others in distress.
- Looks for somebody to play with or to talk to (seeks interaction).

HOW CAN I HELP?:

Talk about emotions together when reading books/stories or watching the TV.

WHAT NEXT?:

Talk about an increasing range of emotions e.g. 'frightened', 'worried', 'excited'

Talking/Expressive Language

- Uses full sentences with 3-5 words e.g. "I sat next to Jack for snack".
- Has up to 5000 words in their vocabulary
- Still makes some errors e.g. mice = "mouses"
- Talks about things they have done/things they are going to do.
- Retells a simple story in the correct order.
- Describes what a simple word means and will ask what new words mean.
- Asks and answers questions.
- Talks about feelings.

HOW CAN I HELP?:

Practise sounds in words by reading stories and singing nursery rhymes.

WHAT NEXT?:

Use longer and more exciting describing words when talking to children e.g. "adorable", "magnificent".

Listening and Understanding

- Responds to instructions without stopping what they are doing.
- Listens to a simple story without pictures.
- Answer questions about characters and events in stories.
- Understands more complicated words and later concepts e.g. short, maybe, first, under, why and because.
- Follows longer instructions e.g. ".... then..."

HOW CAN I HELP?:

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

WHAT NEXT?:

Talk about objects using more challenging location words like 'between' e.g. "the monkey is between the sofa and the cushion".

Speech Sounds

- Most sounds clear apart from r, th, cr, pl, sn, sm which will develop later.
- Difficulty saying longer words e.g. "spaghetti".

HOW CAN I HELP?:

If children say 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 to children so that they can hear the sounds said correctly.

Play and Social Development

- Enjoys make-believe play.
- Joins in dressing up and imaginary play with other children.

HOW CAN I HELP?:

Play pretend games with children like having a pretend tea party or pretend shop.

WHAT NEXT?:

Play memory games with children like 'what's in the bag?' to support their attention skills.



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

