

Social Interaction

- Shows awareness of needs, views and feelings of others.
- Uses words to negotiate with peers and adults.
- Uses language in role-play with other children.
- Understands and follows rules of simple games.

HOW CAN I HELP?:

Talk about emotions in the moment - about what children are seeing, such as somebody's facial expressions and body language.

WHAT NEXT?:

Talk about an increasing range of emotions e.g. 'frightened', 'anxious', 'proud', 'ecstatic'

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".

Play and Social Development

- Joins in and organises role play for their friends

HOW CAN I HELP?:

Have a teddy bear's picnic or play pretend shop with children!

WHAT NEXT?:

Play role play games about things the child is not as familiar with e.g. pretend to be astronauts or builders.

Listening and Understanding

- Maintains attention and waits for their turn in a group.
- Answers questions about characters and events in stories.
- Follows group instructions e.g. "first...then..."
- Understands explanations e.g. "because..."

HOW CAN I HELP?:

Give children visual cues to help their understanding e.g. a gesture, object or picture.

WHAT NEXT?:

Use additional describing words when talking about characters/events in stories e.g. 'intimidating', 'determined'

Speech Sounds

- Most sounds are used accurately, r and th may still be developing.

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.



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

