

How can you support your child at home with their oracy skills?

There are many ways of supporting your child at home to improve their oracy skills:

1. Read aloud to your child

Read books with and to your child. This helps them to learn new vocabulary and combines the benefits of talking, listening and storytelling within one activity. It also provides an excellent opportunity for children to express their thoughts of the book and discuss this with you.

2. Play word games

Games like 20 Questions, Guess Who? and I Spy are great for helping children use descriptive language and think critically about what they're saying.

3. Talk about their day

Ask your child, 'What did you do today?' and they'll often say they can't remember, so find different ways to talk about what they've been up to.

Eating your evening meal as a family is a good way to encourage conversation, while older kids are often more chatty in the car, where they feel less like they're being interrogated.

You could also try our tips for asking the right questions to elicit information. Always make sure that they are answering in full sentences rather than one word answers. Give them an example of an answer first to help them.

4. Phone a friend (or relative) or meet up with them!

Persuade your child to take a break from text and WhatsApp and develop their speaking skills by making an actual phone call. Encouraging them to speak to different family members on the phone, on a video call or even in person will build confidence as they learn how different people communicate.

5. Go on a nature walk

This is a great pre-phonics activity for young children, who can be encouraged to listen carefully to the sounds they hear – from traffic to birdsong – and describe them. They can also describe the natural sights they see, such as trees, animals and birds and the sky.

Some children may also prefer to have a chat outside where there are less distractions and they find other topics to discuss.

6. Sign them up for a club

Joining extracurricular clubs is a good opportunity for your child to converse with different people outside the home or school environment. Many of them also involve taking instructions (such as being coached in sports or to complete projects). They may also develop a new talent and will also learn new vocabulary relating to their new hobby.

<https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/help-for-families/>

<https://www.blossomingbuddies.co.uk/how-parents-can-support-their-childrens-communication-language-and-literacy-skills-at-home/>

<https://www.korukids.co.uk/blog/thoughtful-parenting/10-ways-to-support-your-childs-speech-development>

<https://www.hightspeedtraining.co.uk/hub/supporting-language-development-in-the-early-years/#strategies>

<http://www.hightspeedtraining.co.uk/>