

## Top Tip 3:

Wait and give the child time to talk

### Top Tips for Talking:

Wait and allow the child time to start the conversation



I saw the ducks at the zoo and the elephants and the giraffe!



### Ideas for Developing Conversation Skills

#### Creating opportunities for your child to begin conversation



\*When playing with your child, allow for comfortable silences. Observe what your child is doing and copy them. If they talk, make comments on what they say.

\* If there is no language for an extended period of time, make statements about what you are playing with and model language for your child, e.g: when playing with a tiger, you can say "My tiger is stripy..." "roooooaaarrrr".

#### Creating opportunities for your child to respond to conversation

\* Read a favourite story or a familiar nursery rhyme to your child. Once the child is familiar with the story or rhyme, pause during repetitive or favourite parts and comment on what's happening or what is going to happen next, e.g. "Oh no, Humpty Dumpty is going to...".



## Top Tips for Talking (3)

### Wait and give the child time to talk



Increasing the skills and confidence of parents and carers in the Early Years to support language development

## Top Tip 3:

### Wait and give the child time to talk

#### Why is this important?

- ✓ Children need time to think about what they are going to say, before they answer a question or before they follow an instruction.
- ✓ If you ask something and get no response, it is usually because the child is processing what you have said, or deciding what to say in reply.
- ✓ Giving the child time to initiate conversation allows them to talk about their interests and makes them feel valued and that someone is listening.
- ✓ If a child is stammering/stuttering, it is particularly important that they are given time.



#### How can I do this?

- ✓ Take turns when communicating so that the adult and the child both get a turn at talking.
- ✓ When talking with your child, allow gaps for them to start the conversation.
- ✓ Give them time (about 10 seconds) without answering for them or finishing their sentences.
- ✓ Keep information short - this will enhance understanding and make the child feel calmer when communicating.