

Information for Parents

Why is talk important?

1. The gift of speech is the greatest gift you can give to your child, apart from the gifts of happiness and good health.
2. We talk to get things we need or want: jobs, shopping, medical help, other help, friendship etcetera
3. Talk is our language on paper. The better we can talk, the better we can write. We write to get things we want or need: jobs, shopping, help or advice, friendship etcetera.
4. The more words we know and the richer the words we have, plus our confidence in using language for effect, influences how well we succeed in life.

What is Talk Homework?

1. Once or twice a week I will bring home a TALK homework slip.
2. The TALK homework slip will tell you what the talk topic for homework is. Please turn off the TV and spend 'special' time talking to me.
3. Could we have at least two meals a week when the TV is turned off and we all sit down together to eat (if we do not already). Then we could have a good talk as well.
4. The following are ways we could make our talk last longer and be more interesting:
 - Each give our own opinions on the subject
 - Use the 'because' word to explain why we think that.
 - Discuss why other family members not present might have a different idea.
 - Use the 'because' word to explain why they might have a different idea.
 - You could make links with how things were when you were young, or when your parents were young.
 - Discuss whether things may be different in the future.

What else can we do?

1. Use 'wow' words. These are big words or interesting words. Tell me what they mean if I do not know.
2. Play games with me, especially some of the more old fashioned games like board games and card games.
3. Play lots of word games with me. These are especially good when we are travelling or waiting for something. Here are some ideas:
 - Give a 'wow' word in a sensible sentence and I have to guess what it means
 - Give an adjective (describing word) and then in turn we have to give more that have a similar or opposite meaning
 - How many? Can we find? Take turns beginning with A...B...C... (Boys' names, girls' names, animals, countries, capital cities, seas and oceans)

Talk to me please!

What is a special bedtime?

1. Once or twice a week, have a 'special' bedtime (if bedtime is not like this already).
2. Snuggle on the bed beside me, or sit close by.
3. Talk to me about what I or we have been doing since school finished.
4. Talk to me about your day. Did anything funny happen?
5. Ask me about my day. Did anything funny happen?
6. What was the best thing about today?
7. Talk with me about something I or we watched on TV.
8. Talk with me about tomorrow or the rest of the week:
 - Is anything exciting or interesting going to happen?
 - Am I looking forward to something?
 - Am I a little bit worried about anything?

What is BIG Talk?

1. Big Talk is a part of the school day when we all talk in High Level Language.
2. In Big Talk we use 'wow' words (big or interesting words) and long, clever sentences.
3. When we do Big Writing we use our Big Talk Language.

When else might we talk?

1. In the supermarket talk about:
 - Things we can see
 - Places things come from
 - How things have changed over time
 - How you choose...
 - Guess how much things will cost and see who wins
 - Guess how much the final bill will be and see who wins
 - Who people you spoke to are and how you know them
2. At the doctors talk about:
 - Notices and pictures on the wall
 - Why there are magazines and toys
 - Look at a magazine together and talk about the pictures
 - Look at a story book / read a story
 - What we are going to do after the seeing the doctor
3. Travelling to the supermarket, school and other places, talk about:
 - What we see
 - Where we are going
 - What we expect to see or do
 - How we are feeling today
 - What we are looking forward to
 - Things that have happened in the news