

Be wary of...

Questions

It can be tempting to try and encourage children to speak by asking them questions. However, questions can make children feel 'tested' or pressurised. They can discourage rather than encourage communication.

Avoid these UNHELPFUL questions...



- Questions that the child knows you know the answer to e.g. **"What's that?"**, **"What have you got?"**, **"What colour is it?"**, **"What are you doing?"**



- Questions or instruction that demand the child repeats what you've said e.g. **"Say cat"**, **"Can you say tractor?"**

- Questions that only require yes/no answers (or nodding/shaking the head) e.g. **"Do you want a biscuit?"**, **"Is he climbing the ladder?"**



- Questions that answer themselves e.g. **"You want milk don't you?"**

What to do instead...

- Name items for your child so they can hear what things are. Asking 'what's this' misses an opportunity for them to learn words.

- Make comments or statements about what your child wants/can see e.g. **"You want your cup. Here is your cup"** or **"Man is climbing"**. This gives a model of the words you want them to use.

- Give choice questions e.g. **"Do you want milk or juice?"**. These give your child the words they need to give an answer.

- Only ask questions that are genuine i.e. you don't know the answer to e.g. **"what would you like to drink?"**

