



## Helping Your Child

- to read, write, spell and speak



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# How is talking and listening taught?

## Talking is used for:

- interacting with others
- thinking aloud
- working out ideas
- considering possibilities
- building on the responses of others.

At school, students learn and practise their skills in talking and listening and share their experiences and new learning. They do this in:

- pair work, group work, whole class discussions
- report-back sessions
- debates
- guided small group discussion
- formal presentations.

Students always need to develop ways of sharing ideas, and ways to listen to others, clear up any misunderstanding, change the topic and present another viewpoint.

# How can I help?

## Talk about talking and listening

If you speak a language other than English at home, it is important that you continue to support your child in maintaining the home language. Being able to speak more than one language is a good thing.

The following suggestions apply to languages and dialects other than English, as well as English.

- Encourage your child to talk about different topics. If you are unfamiliar with the topic, let your child know that they will need to give you more information.
- Don't talk down to children. Talk at a normal pace and volume and use ordinary language.
- Encourage your child to tell you about events which did not involve you. This helps students work out what a listener needs to know and prepares them for writing.
- Try not to ask too many questions that only require a yes/no answer. Ask your child questions that require more lengthy use of language.
- Encourage your child to listen to and share their ideas with people from various backgrounds and age groups. This will give them more experience in communicating with a variety of people.

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- Encourage your child to explain their reasoning to you when they are making decisions. Listen and respond in ways that promote further thinking aloud rather than ending the conversation with your opinion.
- Where possible and appropriate, give your child opportunities to make appointments and use the telephone.
- Talk with your child about the things you do together such as reading, using the computer, watching videos and socialising.
- Use any available opportunities to encourage talking and active listening. Show by your behaviour that you are listening, not just hearing. Build on your child's responses.

**Talk about  
talking and  
listening.  
They still  
remain the  
most effective  
way to  
communicate.**