

Adult-Child Interaction

What is Adult-Child Interaction and Why is it important?

Adult-Child interaction is the way we talk, listen and respond to our children. The way we interact with our children has an instant effect on their language development. By implementing these suggested techniques, we can have a positive and powerful impact on enhancing our child's communication skills.

Recent Research indicates that when parents/carers and practitioners work together they can positively affect the language development of children under 5 years (Sylva et al., 2004: ICAN, 2015.) Elklan Training

Through the 'Helpful Hints' in the weekly Newsletters along with the half termly posters, we hope to work together developing language skills with our children.

What do we do as a Communication Friendly Setting?

You can watch and join in some of our fun songs with actions on Eylog.

The environment a child is in can make a big difference to their communication. As a communication friendly setting, we aim to provide our children with as many opportunities as possible to develop and enhance their communication skills.

- **The Zones:** Our setting is split into separate zones. These zones have been carefully curated with a range of activities and resources to support your child's learning and development at each stage of their journey.
- **Our resources:** These are linked to the children's interests and tailored to the different stages of development in order to spark curiosity and enrich vocabulary.
- **Our Practitioners:** All staff are Elklan trained and deliver high quality Adult-Child interaction on a day to day basis. They naturally use many of the strategies mentioned in order to facilitate excellent communication skills.
- **Clear routines:** We have clear routines in place. We often use photo sequences to break down the steps and encourage use of new vocabulary.
- **Song/Book of the week:** Singing and reading with children positively impacts on children's vocabulary and they enjoy it! Each week in our setting, we sing a range of nursery rhymes and songs. We revisit some of our songs and stories as well as learning new songs. The aim is we will build up a bank of songs/stories we enjoy and therefore enhance and enrich our vocabulary too!
- **Weekly Newsletters:** Our Newsletters include our songs and books of the week as well as questions and helpful hints to try at home in order to aid language development.

Helpful Hints to encourage effective Adult - Child interaction....

The following is a recap on the strategies we have covered during last half term!

Follow your child's Lead:

When asking a question or making a comment, always relate to what your child is doing or looking at. This means that the question is more likely to be relevant to your child's train of thought.

Remember the 10 Second Rule:

Ask a question and wait for ten seconds. This gives your child time to process, decipher and then respond with their answer.



Modelling:

Modelling is key to showing your child how to use words in a sentence. Over time, children listen and learn and will join more words together. If singing a song, model the actions with the words.

Break it down!

If your child is learning a new skill or routine, it is useful to break it down into smaller, achievable steps. This way they are less likely to feel overwhelmed and will be encouraged to try.

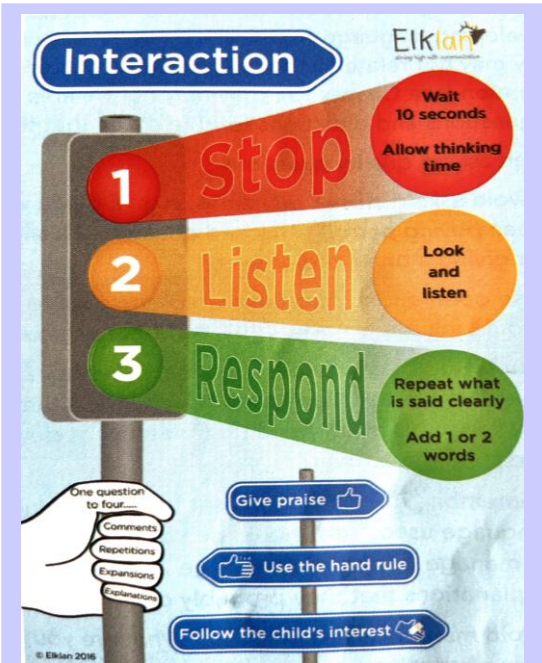
Photo sequences can work really well for breaking a new skill down and having a go at each step. Use simple language as you model each step.



Clever Questions:

Clever questions are open questions and encourage children to talk more about what they are thinking. EG: *What is the tiger doing?*

Avoid using closed questions that require a 'yes' or 'no' answer as these limit the language your child has to use. EG: *Is the tiger eating?*



Source: Elklan Training

Repeating – Repeat what your child says but use a correctly structured and articulated sentence.

Repeat and expand- Repeat correctly what your child says but this time add one or two new words either at the end or within the sentence to enhance their vocabulary. For example, if you are reading a book talk about what is in the picture...

Adult – Where is the tiger sitting?

Child -He sitting on bench

Adult – The **friendly** tiger is sitting on the bench.

1:4 Ratio:

Use one question to every four comments. A '**comment**' refers to all the things we have been working on such as **repeating** and **expanding** what your child has said to encourage and increase communication. This means your child is less likely to become overwhelmed.

How can I help my child at home?