



Keeping Kids Healthy

COMMUNICATION EDITION

LET'S HAVE A CONVERSATION

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Children learn and understand language through talking! Think about the types of questions you ask; can you make them more of a general enquiry rather than a specific question? For example, "tell me about your game/drawing/friends at Kindy?" By asking questions, you are helping the child to take turns in the conversation. It's important that these questions are open ended not just yes or no questions, and some questions will be easier than others!

Don't forget to balance your questions with comments – the rule of thumb is 4 questions from them to every 1 question from you. Try not to bombard them with a string of questions, keep it natural and fun. Research has shown us that there is a strong link between vocabulary development and later literacy development. Children need lots of opportunities to practice hearing and then using words.

Make sure your child is labelling items correctly, not using non-specific words like "this" or "that one". Encourage them to use the specific word for objects and actions – is this easy for them to do or do they need some prompting? Think about the types of words you are modelling and teaching. Check for understanding of opposites and descriptive words.

Vocabulary knowledge:

- **Level 1:** everyday words e.g. water, wet
- **Level 2:** more sophisticated words e.g. soaked, drenched
- **Level 3:** specialised vocabulary e.g. condensation, precipitation

Children need to hear a range of words and new words make most sense when they are in context! Storybooks provide a valuable way to teach, reinforce and practice key words and concepts. Have a go at focusing on Level 2 words within storybooks, these are often 'fun' words such as "squelching" "slippery" or "gobble". Try to explicitly draw your child's attention to these words.

Additional resources:

<https://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/>
<https://raisingchildren.net.au/>

How do I book an appointment?

You can book an appointment by contacting the Physio Inq office directly on **1300 731 733** or by emailing us at: **mobile@physioinq.com.au**

Our team will be able to assist you with any queries or concerns you may have.