



Communicating Through Music

- Your child will love the sound of your voice. Even if you don't think you sound great, they will enjoy listening to you sing, chant or hum
- Turn off the TV and radio so your child can hear your voice
- It doesn't matter what song you sing. Pick up your favourite tune, anything from a nursery rhyme to a ballad. If you enjoy it, so will they
- Look at baby as you sing, chant or hum, and watch her reaction to different parts of the tune
- Include your child's name in the song. Vary the tone of your voice. Emphasise rhyming words. It will all add to their enjoyment of the musical interaction
- Add movement to your words. Clap your hands, or your child's hands in tune to the beat. Use your fingers to tap and your mouth to make playful noises
- When your child joins in, show them you have noticed by giving lots of encouragement and listening to their response
- If they are upset or tired, try singing a favourite song, slowly and quietly to comfort them

First Contact

and

Support Hub

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To find your nearest children's
centre call: **01429 284284**





Sharing Books and Talking Together

- Find a quiet place, turn off the TV and radio so there are no distractions and cuddle up together with a book
- Read the book slowly and clearly and don't be afraid to use sing-song or funny voices for characters, or for words or phrases that are repeated throughout the book. Your child will enjoy the sound of your voice, and after reading a book several times will anticipate hearing the change in your tone
- As well as reading, point to the pictures and talk about them. If there is a picture of a dog, talk about a dog that you know
- Give your child time to respond to your chatter, and listen to them. This will encourage them in their discovery of the world of words and stories
- Don't put them under pressure to name pictures or objects, but if they follow your words, praise them and say the words again
- Don't read for too long. Young children get bored easily, so little and often is best
- Remember, you are not teaching your child to read. You learn to talk a long time before you learn to read, and book sharing is a wonderful way to help your child's language development

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