

Bolton Start Well

Early Years Communication and Language Development Service

Tip of the Month for Practitioners – July 2024

Talk about what could happen next!

Start conversations about future events and encourage children to think about what could happen next.

Conversations beyond the immediate present expose children to less frequently occurring vocabulary and more complex language, which is associated with effective reading comprehension and success in school.

Reference: Rowe, M. (2012). A longitudinal investigation of the quantity and quality of child-directed speech in vocabulary development. *Child Development*, 83(5), 1762-1774

Make comments and ask questions that encourage the child to think about what will happen next. For example, “*Now it’s naptime, what are we going to do after your sleep?*” Wait expectantly for the child to respond, if they do not respond, give the answer. For example, “*We are going to play in the park!*”.

Introduce the language of sequencing, the main concepts are:

- First
- And then
- Then what happens?
- Last

Songs of the Month

‘The Wheels on the Bus’ and ‘I Ride my Little Bicycle’.

Additional information can be found on the Bolton Start Well website: [Learning and Development – Bolton Start Well](#)

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