

Start Well Early Years Communication and Language Development Service

Tip of the Month for Practitioners – May 2021

Make explanations part of your day

Make a point of talking to children about why things happen. Conversations that include explanations expose children to a greater variety of words and help them understand the connections between actions and events. This will prepare them for school and will help them with reading comprehension.

Reference: Rowe, M. (2013). *Decontextualized language input and pre-schoolers' vocabulary development. Seminars in speech and language, 34(4), 260, 266.*

Give a young child simple explanation for why things happen throughout the day. For example, "We have to change your shirt because it's very dirty" or "The buzzer went off because the cookies are ready!"

When the children are playing with toy trains, cars or trucks, join in the play with your own toy and introduce a problem for the children to solve. For example, "Oh no, my train has stalled! How will I get it back to the station?"

Songs of the month:

'Whether the weather be fine' / 'Incy Wincy Spider'

Additional Information can be found online on the Bolton Start Well website www.boltonstartwell.org.uk

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