

# Talk Together

Everyday conversations are opportunities to help your child learn new words. Talking with you each day provides time to practice good manners. Talking together about the world around you builds your child's listening and speaking skills.

## Explain the rules for polite conversations

Talk about manners people expect, such as waiting for the other person to finish their sentence, saying "Excuse me" when interrupting, and making requests using the words such as *please* and *thank you*.

That looks like Daddy's car.

Yes, it is green and has four doors just like Daddy's car.

## Model active listening

Rephrase what your child says and add to his ideas to extend the conversation. Look into your child's eyes and stop what you are doing so he can see that he has your full attention. Help your child learn to take turns and listen to others' ideas.

## Stay on topic

Help your child expand her ideas on a topic by asking follow-up questions. Repeat what you talked about at the end of a conversation, such as "We

talked about so many ideas about the zoo during lunch today. You remembered seeing elephants, lions, and penguins at the zoo."

## Encourage good listening

Encourage your child by pointing out ways to help someone know that they are listening carefully, such as standing or sitting still and

making eye contact with the speaker. Encourage her to ask her friends questions and then listen to their ideas.



Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this tip sheet are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Illinois State Board of Education.



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