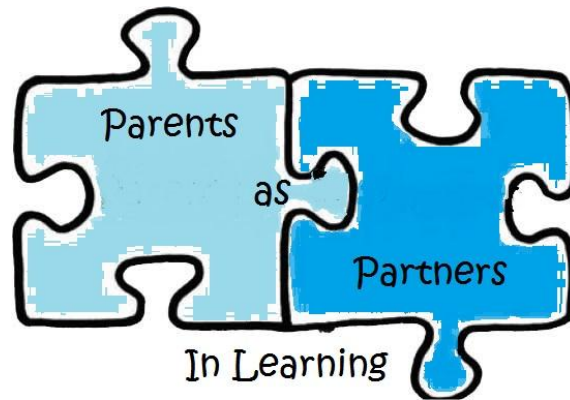


Welcome

Please help yourself to a drink,
sign in and make a name
badge.





Parents as Partners in Learning

Session 1
Introduction
Effective Communication

Week 1 Topics

- Importance of home language
- Speaking & Listening at home and school
- Talking to your child
- Active listening
- Positive talk and praise

Importance of Home Language

- Help your children feel proud of their home language.
- Being bilingual / multi-lingual is an asset.
- Talk to your children about what you're doing together at home...about school
- Tell your children stories in your home language and encourage them to join in with the storytelling.

In the last twenty years there's been a communication explosion..

- PCs, laptops, internet, DVDs, mobile phones, ipads, computer games, satellite TV..
- Technology can prevent us actively communicating with each other
- Children learn best from real situations when they communicate ideas, thinking and understanding with others

Why is speaking and listening to your child important?

- Confidence
- Social skills– formal and informal
- Cultural- link to culture and home language
- Supports good behaviour
- Makes children inquisitive- supports learning

Why is speaking and listening important at school?

There is more emphasis now on speaking, listening and language for thinking in every subject at school. It underpins all learning.

For example in literacy.....

- Listening to sounds and patterns eg in rhymes, poems and stories
- Supporting reading (phonics)
- Oral literacy, learning stories, rhymes by heart
- Active listening to check understanding and comprehension

Conversations that count

This means talk that supports children's thinking...

- Planning
- Solving problems
- Wondering
- Explaining
- Remembering
- Describing
- Comparing
- Evaluating

*How can we
develop language
for thinking at
home?*

Active listening

This means..

- Really listening
- Taking an interest
- Taking what your child says seriously
- Encouraging your child
- Helping your child make real choices

How can you do this effectively?

Practice Time

- In pairs, pick one person to be person A (the talker) and B (the listener).
- Person A will get 1 minute to talk about a topic of their choice (weather, holidays, plans for the weekend, hobbies etc).
- Person B is not allowed to speak.

Positive Talk

Why do adults say NO to children so often?

A **positive response** can help them to learn and behave better

Encourage your child to do well

Praise good actions and behaviour

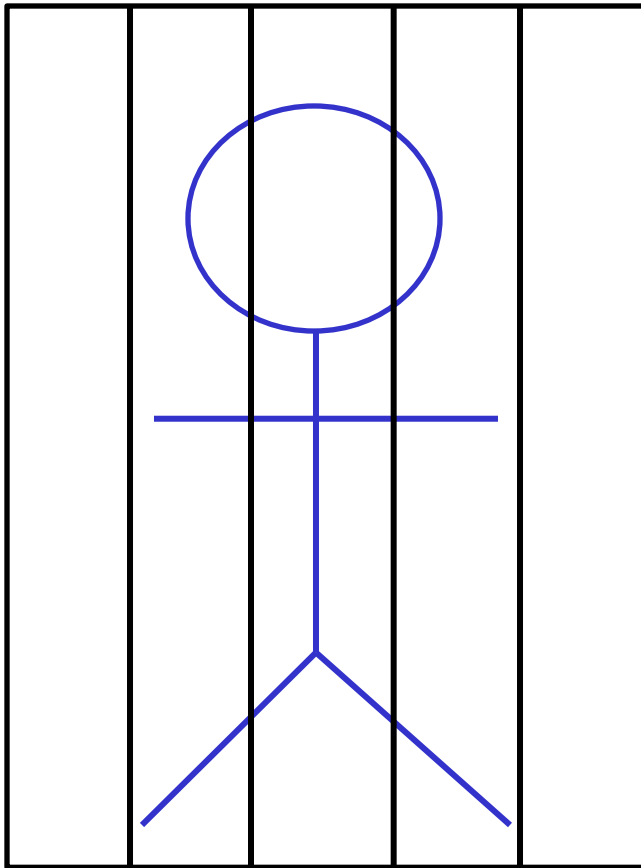
Explain why you are pleased or not

Activity - Scenario

It is a weekday evening at home and you are busy preparing everyone's dinner and feeding your youngest child. Your 6 year old child asks you to read their book with them but you are not able to do so at that moment.

How might you respond positively so both parent and child walk away happy?

How might our children feel if we say no all the time?



If children grow up hearing and experiencing “no” all the time, the affect can be a feeling of being restricted.

By responding positively, we can remove those barriers.

The Power of Praise – What we praise our children for?

For Being...

When you praise your children, are you praising them for “being” who they are?

For Doing...

Or for what they do?

Praising your child – How we praise them?

A few tips are:

- Give the child your full attention
- Seek eye contact, get down to their level
- Look pleased and share their pleasure
- Be specific: describe what you like
- Mean it – be sincere
- Tell them they should feel proud of themselves

Time to have a go at home

- 5 o'clock stop – what is everyone in the house doing right now? How many electrical devices are on?
- Notice how you respond when your child asks you to do something – particularly if you are busy or stressed.
- Try to use 5 new ways to say “well done” in your home.

Thank you all for coming. We hope you enjoyed yourself. We look forward to seeing you next week.

Next week

Reading!

Reading for meaning

Phonics