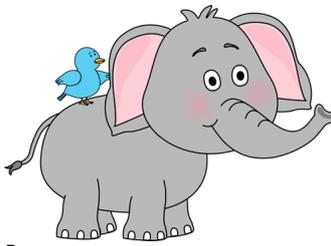


Have you ever seen a family walking along with the adults on the phone or listening to their ipods and not one word is spoken to the children!
A missed opportunity!



Making Time to Talk

Last week in a restaurant the only words spoken during the whole meal were to the waitress and she was asked "what is your wi-fi password?"
A true story!

Great News! We thought you would like to know that ERIC has helped us win a substantial grant of money to improve communication at our school! We were one of only 12 bids from the whole of Essex to be successful which is a fantastic achievement. There will be more and more ideas and new resources we can share with you to help promote communication at home and at school. If you have any good ideas please let us know. Here are a few simple suggestions to get you started!

Use breakfast, dinner or tea time to catch up with news.



Take it in turns round the meal table to ask 'what was the best thing that happened to you today?'

Encourage everyone else to listen carefully and then ask one question each of the speaker to find out more about what they enjoyed.

If you don't eat together at the table, News Time can be shared in the car on a journey or even walking home from school.

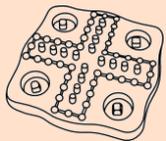
Play a simple card game like 'Snap'



Explain the rules. Get your child to explain the rules to someone else in the family. Talk about the playing card suits, the colours, shapes and numbers on the cards.

Play a guessing game along the way; can your child guess which colour card comes next? Or even which suit or number!

Play a board game together



Explain the rules. Get your child to explain the rules to someone else in the family. Talk about the game, how many players, what the strategy might be, how to win, how many cards or spaces left to go.....

Join in one of your child's favourite activities



Make some time, even just 10 minutes, to join in their favourite activity e.g. building with Lego, dressing teddies or dolls, doing a jigsaw puzzle and make conversation with your child. You may even find you still like these games even now you are a grown up!

Encourage them to answer you and ask you questions about what you are doing, making or building.



Play a talking game together while doing the chores

The old favourites..... 'I spy' is easy to play when washing up, in the car, tidying the bedroom together! It is also great for reinforcing letter names and sounds which helps reading and spelling!

How about 'Simon Says'... or 'Twenty Questions' to guess the animal or food you are thinking of?



Go out for the day

Play word games on the journey. Talk about what you can see if you are walking together: it is surprising how many children just don't notice what is right in front of their noses!

Ask your child questions about what they see and do and listen to their answers, encouraging them to say even more.

