

**INFORMATION TALK**

**TALKING WITH YOUNG CHILDREN**

**Information Talk is describing objects, actions, thoughts and feelings. We use it to help build a child’s understanding of language.**

**Information Talk is more effective when we:**

* ***Position ourselves on the child’s level.***
* ***Use an expressive voice and face.***
* ***Match our words to what the child is experiencing.***
* ***Use a comfortable pace.***
* ***Incorporate into daily routines.***

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**Supporting Early Language Development” (Video Training Series); Portland, OR: Educational Productions, Inc. 1995.**



**LET’S TALK**

**First Steps to Conversation**

**1. Show your interest.**

* **Get down to the child’s level.**
* **Give eye contact. Facial expressions, voice, and gestures also signal interest!**
* **Focus attention on what the child is doing.**

**2. Information Talk**

* **Parallel Talk: state the actions of the child.**

 **e.g. “You are pushing the car.” “You made it crash.”**

* **Description: state what the child is playing with, touching, or seeing.**

 **e.g. “There’s a big tree.” “The soup is hot.” “See the furry kitty.”**

* **Self-Talk: state what you are doing while the child watches you.**

 **e.g. “I’m tying my shoe.” “I’m combing my hair.” “I’m eating toast.”**

**3. Expansion: add more words to a short sentence that the child uses to talk about objects or actions.**

* **Expansion Plus: add one or more short sentences to a baby sentence that the child says.**

**4. Limit Closed Questions: ones that tend to elicit only one-or two-word responses.**

**5. Indirect Correction: after saying something incorrectly, the child hears the correct words to what he said without interrupting his message.** E.g. Child: “Him come to dinner.” Response: “That’s right. He did come to dinner. He sat with us.”

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