



'time to talk'
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chatter matters week 2-6 March 2015—press release



We all know how good it feels to chat... but how did we learn to do it? All the words we have learned, the gestures, the listening and turn taking, the jokes and information sharing... just how did it all happen? And what about our babies and young children today – are they learning the skills they need or are they missing out?

We can be confident that we learn to chat by watching and listening to others doing it... at mealtimes, bedtimes, in the park, at the shops, waiting for a bus or walking to school. Other people show us, whether they know it or not, how to start a conversation and keep it going. We know that we need other people. No app, screen or CD, is ever as good as another human at being interesting, funny, responsive or intuitive... and nothing matches another person at giving or receiving a hug.

And we know there is a real danger that many of our children are missing out. Life is busy and sometimes there isn't the energy or time to stop and chat. Mealtimes may not be the social occasion they once were, playing games together or sharing a book or puzzle is often replaced by a screen and when children are bored or making a noise there's nothing quite like a phone or iPad. So there's a risk that we simply don't talk anymore... and that means that children are not learning the social, listening or language skills they need to support all of their learning and development.

Children learn by experiencing the language and communication of other people over and over again in daily life. Chatter really does matter everywhere.

That's why **'chatter matters week'** is about raising everyone's awareness of the importance of giving children the experience of having a really good chat! We want people to talk and listen to babies and children throughout their day. We want everyone to take time to talk to children. It doesn't require any special gadgets or gizmos, it simply needs people to make themselves available and interested. And that's priceless.

The **'time to talk'** team of Speech and Language Therapists will be touring Warwickshire libraries and supermarkets with the Big Red Party Bus from 3rd-6th March 2015 to share strategies to develop children's communication skills with communities. See website or facebook page for timetable.



'time to talk' is a partnership project with Warwickshire County Council & South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust