



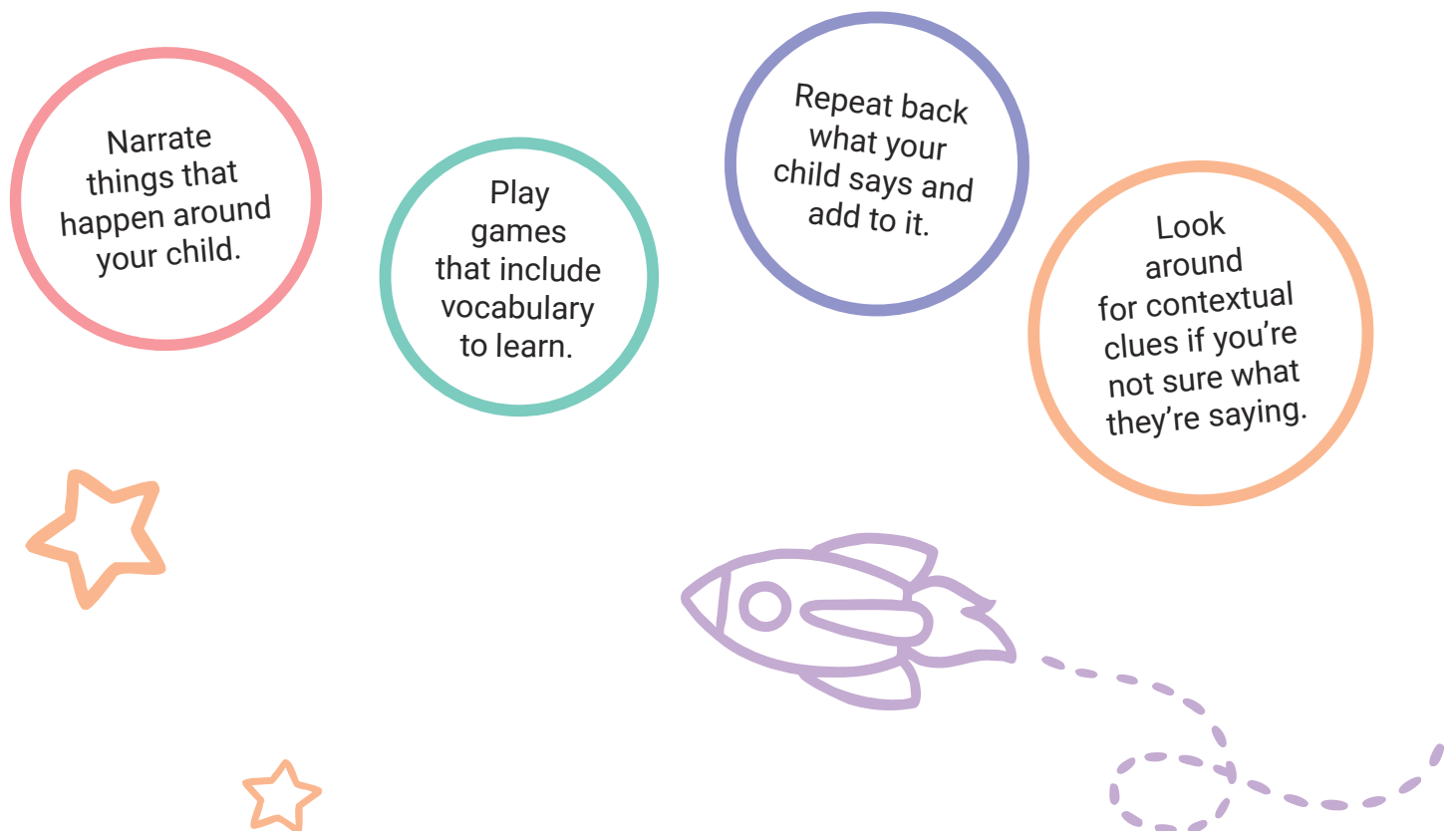
# Communication for 2 - 3 Year Olds

There are lots of practical ways that you can encourage your child to practise and develop their communication skills.

Your child may show development in the three important parts of communication: **listening and attention** (including both sounds from people and the surrounding environment), **understanding** (making sense of what they hear) and **speaking**. They may also use **non-verbal communication** such as gestures, facial expressions and body language.

This is not a checklist - it is here to guide you and your child in a **fun and beneficial way**.

## Quick ways to encourage communication:






Over 2020 and 2021, a new Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum (or framework) was released and has become statutory for all nurseries and reception classes. These guides, though based on some of the milestones laid out by that new framework, are designed as general guidance and not a solid indication of what is taught in a formal school setting.

For more information about the new framework reforms (introduced 2021), you can use these resources:

- [New EYFS Reforms Parent and Carer Information Sheet](#)
- [Development Matters 2021 \(Official Document\)](#)
- [EYFS Statements Summarised](#)

You can also find tips and guidance for other skills or ages in our [Parent Guides](#) category.

<b>Key</b>	
<b>Listening and Attention</b>	
<b>Understanding</b>	
<b>Speaking</b>	



Attention and Listening Games Set 2 Cards

Find new and interesting songs and rhymes that are related to topics your child shows interest in.

Include your child in everyday routines and chores, such as setting the table, e.g. "Please put a spoon here."

Encourage your child to interact with others their own age by initiating play dates or going to play groups.






Where Do You See...? Scene

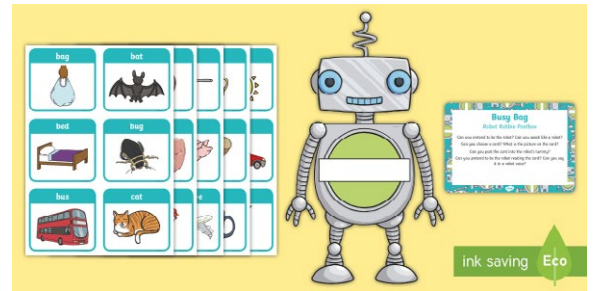
Help your child build their vocabulary by extending the range of their experiences, e.g. visiting new places or talking with new people.

Make reading time as interesting as possible, using fun voices, facial expressions and other interactions.

Talk with your child to make links between their body, language and words, e.g. "Your face looks cross. Has something upset you?"



<b>Key</b>	
<b>Listening and Attention</b>	
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Robot Robbie Posting Busy Bag Prompt Card and Resource Pack

Model building sentences by repeating what your child says and adding another word, e.g. child says "car", say "mummy's car" or "blue car".

Draw your child's attention to sounds that occur naturally in your environment. Can they hear a phone ring, someone knocking on the door or a car beep its horn?




Set an example of the correct use of language by telling repetitive stories and playing games which involve repetition of words or phrases.



Where's Teddy? Listening Game for Parents Resource Pack

Plan activities that use spoken instructions or prompts to guide your child, such as cooking, e.g. "We need some flour. Let's see if we can find some in the cupboard."

Do you have any stories or songs that you can remember from your childhood? Teaching them to your child could be a bonding moment while also developing their listening abilities.

Key	
Listening and Attention	
Understanding	
Speaking	



When your child asks questions or tries to build sentences, listen carefully and try to understand based on what's happening around them and their visual cues, e.g. pointing, eye gaze, etc.



Encourage your child's curiosity by asking questions frequently and giving them time to think.



Narrate what you're doing or what's going on during everyday activities and routines to help your child develop their understanding of simple concepts, e.g. "We're putting on a jacket because it's cold outside" or "Time to have dinner because it's evening."

Help to build your child's vocabulary by giving choices, e.g. "Apple or satsuma?"



Wait and allow your child some time to start a conversation or take the lead in topics that interest them.




Provide your child with books and pictures of people who are special to them.



Ask open-ended questions (starting with 'why' or 'how') that have more than a yes, no or one-word answer, e.g. "How does that make you feel?"





**My Listening Walk Checklist**

Sounds I heard... ✓ or ✗

trains		<input type="checkbox"/>
aeroplane		<input type="checkbox"/>
birds singing		<input type="checkbox"/>
cars		<input type="checkbox"/>
children playing		<input type="checkbox"/>




**My Listening Walk Checklist**

Things I heard... ✓ or ✗

trains		<input type="checkbox"/>
aeroplane		<input type="checkbox"/>
birds singing		<input type="checkbox"/>
cars		<input type="checkbox"/>
children playing		<input type="checkbox"/>
teacher talking		<input type="checkbox"/>
dog barking		<input type="checkbox"/>
people		<input type="checkbox"/>

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My Listening Walk Checklist Sheet

Key	
Listening and Attention	
Understanding	
Speaking	

Keep background noise to a minimum to help focus your child's listening and attention, e.g. use music or radio briefly and only for particular purposes.



Listen carefully as your child speaks and gently correct where appropriate. Most children will begin self-correcting naturally as they speak more.



Add words to what your child says, e.g. if they say "Brush dolly hair", you say "Yes, Lucy is brushing the dolly's hair."



Photo Album Templates for Home



As your child tries to tell you a story or sequence of events, allow them time to think and talk, then ask simple prompt questions when needed, e.g. "Then what happened?"



Observe whether your child struggles to understand when you use longer, more complex instructions; you may need to simplify by saying one thing at a time, e.g. "Throw the ball." Slowly introduce more complex sentences, e.g. "Put your toys away and then we'll read a book."