Week Five
Building talking and listening skills
Building Strong Talking & Listening Skills

Kids’ language skills grow at the highest rate from age 0-4 years

This is also when they are most likely to get middle ear disease
Talking & Listening Skills: Talking Points

- Kids brains grow very quickly when they’re young
- If they have lots of middle ear troubles and can’t hear well it makes learning much harder
- Especially learning to talk and play with others
- We know kids’ talking, listening and social skills are important for strong futures
- There’s a lot we can do to make kids’ talking skills strong
We can help make kids’ language skills strong

Be Face to Face

Yarn & Listen

Wow, look at these...

car!

Respond

Oooh butterfly!

Oooh!
Talking & Listening Skills: Talking Points

- Children learn language best from the important people in their lives.
- When we talk, play, sing and read with our children everyday, it strengthens their brain development.
- Some tricks to make language come alive for kids:
  A) Get face to face for talking—it makes it easier & helps Children to hear better too.
  B) Yarn with your bubbas—kids love to hear you talk
  B) Listen when your kids talk... and then respond
Activity 5a: Bubble Play

What you will need
1. Plastic tubs to share
2. Assorted bubble wands, (straws, pipe cleaners, plastic cups, etc.)
3. Detergent mix, (1 cup water: 4 Tbs dish soap: 2-3 drops vegetable oil)

Getting set up
1. Set out trays with detergent
2. Set out a range of bubble wands
3. This may be an outdoor activity.

Bubble fun!
- Parents and children make bubbles together and yarn about it.
- Encourage parents to practice getting face to face with their children, waiting for them to talk and then responding with comments during this activity.
Activity 5b: “Heads & Shoulders”

1. What you will need
   1. Yourselves!
   2. Written song lyrics for parents who may not know the words
   3. Optional: A volunteer to sing the song in home language

2. The song
   “Head, shoulders, knees, and toes.
   Knees and toes.
   Head, shoulders, knees, and toes,
   Knees and toes.
   And eyes and ears and mouth & nose.
   Head, shoulders, knees, and toes.
   Knees and toes.”

3. Make it interactive
   1. Get everyone together
   2. Demonstrate the song + actions to everyone and then encourage parents and their kids to join in.
   3. Have lots of fun together!