**Tips to aid speaking and listening skills**



* After story time encourage your child to talk about the pictures and characters. Discuss what happened in the story, what might happen next and what did they like about the story and why?
* Encourage imaginative play with their soft toys, puppets or small world toys. Can they create stories using the toys and tell you about what they are doing?
* Sing a variety of songs and rhymes with them and encourage them to join in with the actions and words.
* After singing songs and rhymes can you make up your own crazy rhyming words to make funny sentences

 e.g. Humpty Dumpty sat on a ball

* During favourite TV programmes repeat and explain new words and sounds. Discus these new words and support and encourage them to use them in their play.
* If you find your child is saying a word or letter sound incorrectly, don't correct them just repeat it back to them correctly. This encourages the children to keep on talking and increases their confidence.
* Encourage your child to listen to your news. Tell them something interesting that you did during the day and try and encourage a conversation to happen around this. This supports your child's listening skills.
* Go on a listening walk in the indoor or outdoor environment. Encourage your child to stop and be still for a moment. What can they hear? As well as focussing your child's attention you can they develop a conversation

 e.g. You can hear a siren - "Uh oh, where do you think the Police are going?"

 You hear an aeroplane - "Where do you think they are going on holiday"

* To encourage your child to talk about their school day ask interesting and open ended questions to encourage discussion e.g.

 Can you tell me the funniest thing that happened today?

 Can you tell me something kind that you or someone else did today?

 What was the best part of today?

 Did anything sad/crazy happen today?

 Did anyone make Mrs Almond/Mrs Heron grumpy today!!!! (usually a good conversation starter!)

* An excellent book that aids communication skills is 'You Choose' by Nick Sharratt. These fabulous pictures provide endless fun conversations.

