



**Returning to
my Childminder,
Nursery or
School**

**Language &
Communication**

Children with good communication skills have better emotional well-being and are more successful learners. When children are able to communicate effectively they also find it easier to make friends. There is so much to gain from building and practising these skills. With the increased use of tablets and the like, children need to practice these face to face skills more than ever. Some children may have missed out on being able to chat to many of their friends and other adults during lockdown, so the more practice children get at home to build these skills the better these skills will become. Chatting to your children will help them develop larger vocabularies.

How you can help

- Talk about what you are doing as you go through your daily routines – this helps children to connect words with actions and objects
- Read, read, read – this immerses children in language and builds their vocabulary
- Enjoy music together; nursery rhymes, action rhymes and songs. These not only develop their language and communication skills but also helps them to learn about the world around them
- Wonder out loud to encourage communication and response; e.g. “I wonder where I left my book?”, “I wonder what the weather is like?”
- Give them time to listen, (process) and respond
- Ask questions that need more than a yes/no answer
- STOP! Make eye contact and get down to their level – this will communicate your desire to hear what they have to say and make them feel that their contribution is valued.