



# Talking tips

Strong oral language skills will ensure your child can communicate effectively and will help them to be strong learners in future



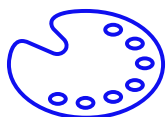
## Value your child's ideas and move between leading and following in conversations

Use 'I wonder...' statements, for example: *"I wonder, do all eggs hatch into birds?"*  
Ask genuine questions that you really don't know the answer to.



## Practise pausing to create time for children to process and respond

Play with pausing for different lengths of time (for example: 3-5 seconds, 5-10 seconds) after asking a question.



## Make conversations personal by connecting to your child's experiences, life and interests

When reading a book or telling a story, prompt your child to tell you a story about a similar experience of their own.

Ask your child to provide commentary on photos of a family experience or activity.



## Ask questions

Use questions that invite your child to think and respond, for example: *"What do you think might happen next?"*

Use statements followed by pauses, for example: *"Wow, look at the sky today!"*

Repeat, modify, or provide a hint, instead of answering your own question.



## Keep the conversation going

Repeat your child's talk to model more complex language.

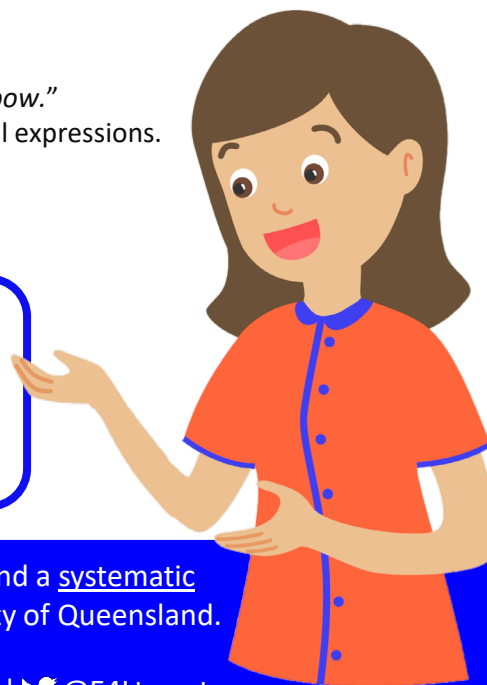
Child: *"There's a bird!"*

You: *"Yes, I can see the rosella. It reminds me of a rainbow."*

Use active listening such as eye-contact, nodding and facial expressions.



Contact your child's early childhood educator  
for more information



This resource is developed from our [oral language tip sheets](#) and a [systematic review of the Australasian research](#) conducted by the University of Queensland.