



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.

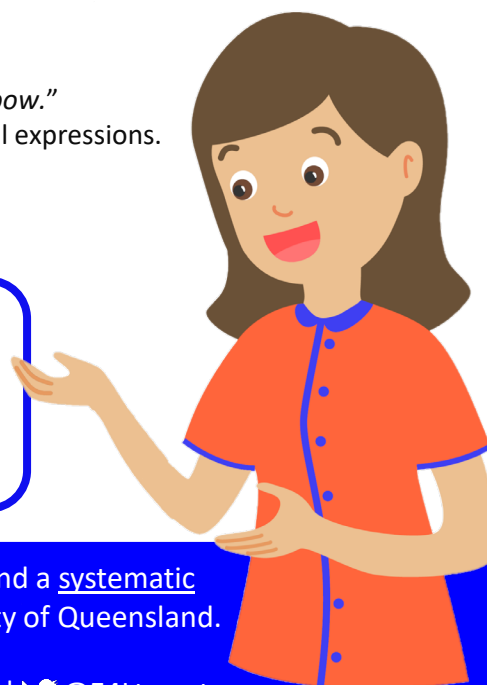
Child: *"There's a bird!"*

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.