Top Tips for

Communication Skills

(Ages 3 - 4)

Communication for 3 - 4 Year Olds

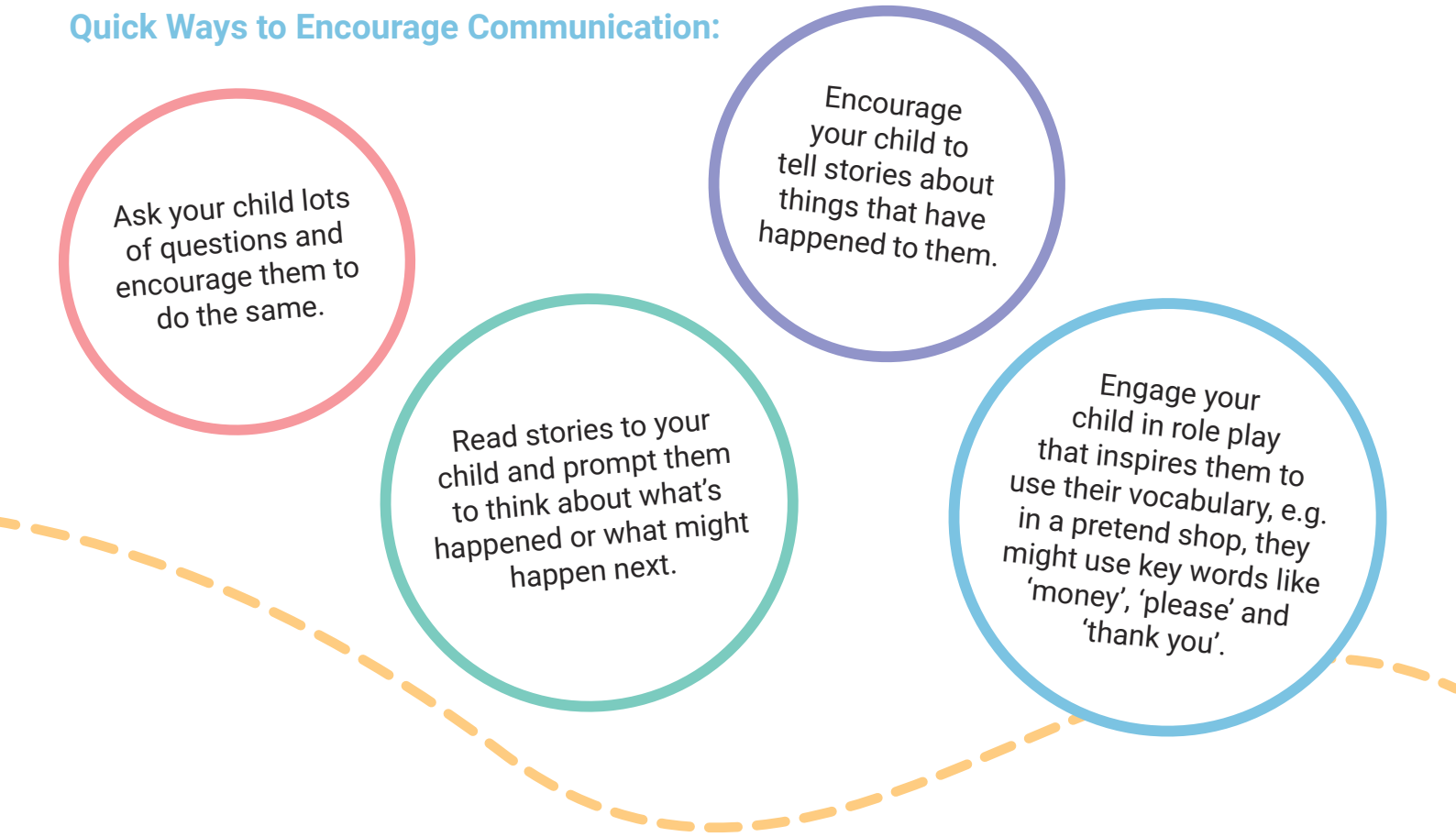
There are lots of practical and easy ways that you can encourage your child to practise and develop their communication and language skills every day.

With children aged three to four, you could work on **paying attention** for longer periods and on doing more than one thing at a time. **Building vocabulary** is also important and you can do this by introducing books on different topics. Children of this age should also be encouraged to speak in **longer sentences** with more than four words; if they make any **grammatical** errors ("I swimmed in the pool today" or "I ated my dinner"), respond normally ("you did swim in the pool today" and "you have eaten all your dinner").

These top tips are here to give you some ideas on how you could do this.

Please remember, this is not a checklist - it is here to guide you and your child in a **fun and beneficial** way.

Quick Ways to Encourage Communication:



Over 2020 and 2021, a new Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum (or framework) was released and has become statutory for all nurseries and reception classes. These guides, though based on some of the milestones laid out by that new framework, are designed as general guidance and not a solid indication of what is taught in a formal school setting.

For more information about the new framework reforms (introduced 2021), you can use these resources:

- New EYFS Reforms Parent and Carer Information Sheet
- Development Matters 2021 (Official Document)
- EYFS Statements Summarised

You can also find tips and guidance for other skills or ages in our **Parent Guides** category.

Key	
Listening and Attention	
Building Vocabulary	
Understanding	
Speaking	



Talk for a Minute Activity

Give a two-step instruction instead of one, e.g. 'Could you fetch your coat and put on your shoes please?'

Sing lots of nursery rhymes or songs together and encourage your child to memorise as much of them as possible.

Encourage your child to read a wide range of picture books. Ask them to describe the pictures to you and tell you how they relate to the story.



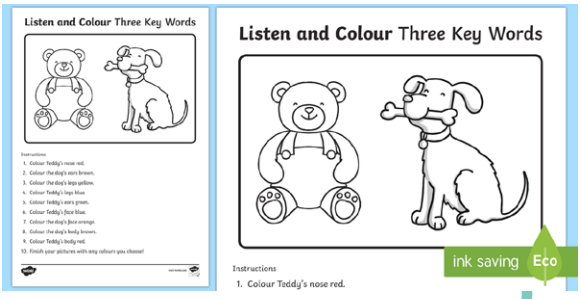
'Why' and 'Because' Question Scene Cards

Encourage your child to describe things they see or feel, e.g. "look at those clouds - what shapes do they make?" or "how does it make you feel when your friend smiles at you?"

Play a memory game where you show your child three objects, cover it with a cloth and remove one of the objects, then ask your child to remember which item is missing.

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Listen and Colour Three Key Words Worksheet

Sing songs with actions - this will ensure your child is listening carefully to the words as they hear them.

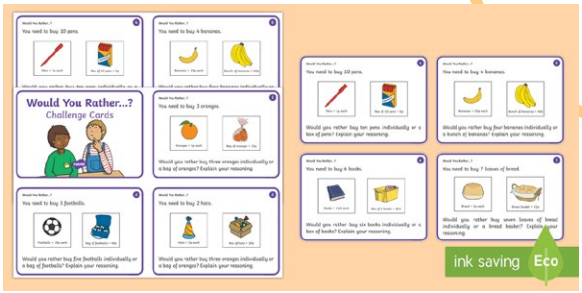
Regularly ask your child what they are doing or what they have done so they become more confident at retelling events in the correct order.



Back to Earth with a Bump eBook

Say your child's name before asking them something so you know they are paying attention, e.g. "Grace, what would you like for lunch?"

Use new words you have learnt together in everyday speech and praise your child for doing the same.



Would You Rather...? Challenge Cards

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