



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOL- AGED CHILDREN

Elklan Training run courses delivered by speech and language therapists and specialist teachers. We want to share some simple techniques and activities that we have recommended over the years that you can use at home with children to support their language and communication skills. These activities may be useful to help children with learning and keeping them focused and engaged. The ideas can be used every day and really work!

Developing Communication Confidence and Self Esteem



It is important that children have the confidence to speak out and tell us their needs and views. Here are some of the top tips to help children in this area.

- Encourage your child to say when they have not understood or need help. This is an essential skill that is needed throughout life.
- Encourage your child to think about their strengths and identify what they are good at.
- Adults should be aware of the child's strengths and use these to enhance their self esteem, learning and communication.
- Adults should adapt their language to enable the child to achieve success. For example, when asking questions make sure that these are at a level the child can understand and respond to.
- Adapting the way we interact with children can have a positive impact on their communication, and their self-esteem. To do this, we need to make sure that we listen to our child and follow their interests and what they want to talk about as much as possible. This shows that we are interested and that what they want to talk about is of value.

- Give lots of praise. We all like to be praised and it is especially important that we do this with children. Acknowledge the child's efforts, not just the results.
- Finish your tasks on a positive. Make sure that activities end in success even if this means making it easy.
- Give the child responsibility for an achievable goal at school or at home. For example, collecting the register or feeding a pet. Give specific praise that suggests that their input is invaluable e.g. *'Thanks, I wouldn't have been able to do that without you.'*
- Notice and praise instances of good listening, thinking, sharing etc. Your child does not have to be actively trying to 'be good' or engaged in a structured task.

If you would like to find out more about our e-learning opportunities please visit our website at <https://www.elklan.co.uk/information/practitioners/e-learning-opportunities> for a range of interactive courses to suit all ages, with or without accreditation.

For more information or advice about any of our courses or resources, and to find out about upcoming opportunities, please contact Clare on clare@elklan.co.uk or ring us on 01208 841450

Useful links and resources:

Positive Talking with your child- <https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/connecting-communicating/communicating/conversation-skills>

Communicating well with children- <https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/connecting-communicating/communicating/communicating-well-with-children>

Let's Talk with 3-5 s workbook (2018) www.elkan.co.uk

Let's Talk with 5-11s workbook (2018) www.elkan.co.uk

Language Builders. Practical advice, strategies and activities for school -age children (2012) www.elklan.co.uk