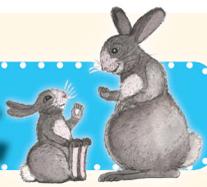


# Happy Talk



## Balancing Questions and Comments



Welcome to all Happy Talkers!

We are delighted to continue learning and having fun with all of you. For these few months we are learning (or re-learning) some Happy Talk Skills. We have learned about modelling and expanding. This month the skill we're going to practice is: **Balancing Questions and Comments!**

When we talk to young children we often ask lots of questions. Too many questions do not help with language development.

And so, this month we are going to think about balancing our questions and comments.

In Happy Talk we use the Elklan 'Thumb Rule' e.g. for every question you ask, make at least 4 comments. When you comment and talk to your child you water them like a beautiful plant; the more water, the more flowers! And so, fill your child with language and words. Talk to them.



Comment on what they are doing. Describe what they can see and hear and do. Talk about your day to show them how to talk about theirs. Fill them up and watch them blossom!



If your child responds to your question then use this opportunity to practice modelling and expanding, and show them you are listening and helping them build longer sentence and stories.

E.g. \_\_\_\_\_

You: What are you playing with?

Child: The sarm.

You: Oh! You're playing with the *farm!* I can see lots of animals. You are a very good farmer. You are feeding your animals. What animal will you feed first?



Let's grow our language!



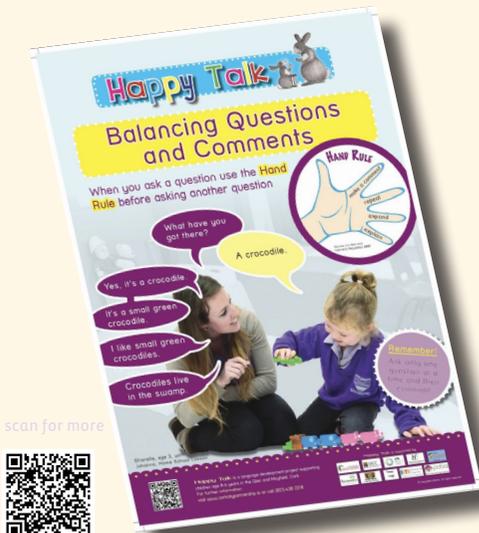
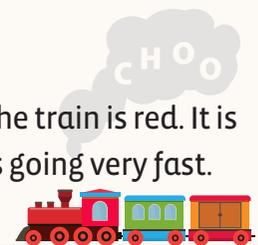
If your child does not respond to your question, do not ask another question automatically. Before asking another question talk to your child, comment, say something, give them more information.

E.g. \_\_\_\_\_

You: What are you playing with?

Child: (No response).

You: I can see you have a train. The train is red. It is driving on the tracks. The train is going very fast. What does the train say?



scan for more



# Happy Talk

## November 2021



### Mindful Moment

When we are busy it helps to stop and take a moment. Try this short and easy Happy Talk Mindful Moment!

#### Use Our Senses Mindful Moment

You can use all or some of the senses for this mindful moment. If you are going to use smell and taste, have some items to hand that can be used. You can swap around how many things to look for in each sense.

Sitting comfortably practice breathing deeply and pushing your belly out as it fills with air. Pull your belly in as it empties of air. Practice 5 - 10 times.



First we will use our sense of sight. Look about the room and find 5 things you can see. Tell someone what the 5 things are.



Next we will use our sense of touch. Look around and see can you find 4 things you are touch. Tell someone what the 4 things are.

Next...



Hearing... 3 things



Smell... 2 things



Taste... 1 thing.



Preschool  
Term 1: Session 1

#### Rhyme Time Voices and Games

Nursery Rhymes are a fun to learn about rhythm, rhyme and are a fun way to learn new language. In Happy Talk we will be doing a new Nursery Rhyme every week. These are some fun ways to practise them at home.

Laughing 	Slow Motion 
Whisper 	Loud-Quiet-Loud 
Robot Voice 	Silly Voice 
When it gets a bit easier try these games:	
March/tap/drum/clap out <u>each beat</u> or <u>each word</u> 	Say <u>every second word</u> with your child 

Handout  
# 58

### Rhyme Time Voices and Games

#### Using your favourite rhymes practice...

##### For Babies / Toddlers:

- Use actions to act out the rhyme!
- Once your child knows the rhyme, pause in the middle of the rhyme or song, and let your child show you they want to continue with a look, a sound or a word!

##### For Toddlers / Young Children

- Say the rhyme in a robot voice!
- Say the rhyme going from loud to soft!
- Make a silly mistake and invite the children to fix it!

##### For Children

- Say every second word of the rhyme with someone!
- Leave gaps and let the children fill them in!
- Use different words that rhyme to make it a silly rhyme!

