

## 5 Top Tips for Communication

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Let the child lead the play</b></p> <p><i>Stop your agenda and watch and listen to what the child is doing and saying.</i></p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Come down to the child's level</b></p> <p><i>Join the child's play and ensure that they can see your face when you are talking.</i></p>	
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Match your language to that of the child</b></p> <p><i>Repeat back what the child says and, where appropriate, add in one or two new words e.g. if the child says 'car', you could reply 'big car'.</i></p>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Leave time for the child to respond to comments or questions</b></p> <p><i>Children can take up to 10 seconds to process what has been said and to think of a response.</i></p>	
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Use more comments than questions</b></p> <p><i>Remember the hand rule (4 comments and 1 question). Try to use open questions like, 'I wonder what will happen if...'</i></p>	