# Chatter Matters!

One of the most important skills in life is the power of speech. Communication is a key skill that your child will use throughout their lives daily. The ability to use language in an effective and meaningful way is something that is learnt from a very young age and needs consistent encouragement and modelling from adults.
Here are some examples of simple prompts that can be used in your day-to-day routines, that will encourage new and interesting language to help build on your child's vocabulary.

It's not just a frog... It's a slimy, green, round, jumpy, slippery, smooth, tiny, goggly eyed frog!
Where do frogs live? What do you think they like to eat? Do we eat the same foods as a frog? Do you know what frogspawn is? What do you think it feels like? Let's look at the life cycle of a frog.





Everything or anywhere can be an opportunity to introduce new language and conversation, like walking down the street or driving in the car.
''Where do you think that tractor is going?''
''I can see so many cars, what else can you see?''
''Let's stop here for a moment and listen to what sounds we can hear''

Mealtimes are the perfect opportunity to initiate conversations. Talking to your child about your own day and what you have been doing is a great starter point. This leads to back-and-forth conversations and their own ideas.
''I would like to talk to you about my day... I have been to the shop to buy some items; can you guess what they are? What's your favourite thing on your plate? Seeing my friends made me feel happy today.''



Keep the chit-chat flowing, chatter matters!