

## Why...

- \* As children are developing in their use of language, giving them opportunities to stretch this & to practice what they know will help them to solidify their learning. It will also give them opportunities to learn new words
- \* Children need to learn that verbal communication is used for a range of purposes, one of these being to share ideas & put forward a point of view. It also gives children a chance to listen to others ideas in turn
- \* Giving your child space to be heard will empower them in their confidence to share their views, & to feel valued and respected as a person

## When...

- \* Give children choices in everyday activities. Like when you are buying breakfast cereal or dressing them offer two options & ask which one they would like
- \* When planning outings to do as a family have a discussion about it together with your children. Write down all suggestions & talk about which ones are possible & which ones are not & choose from there. Let everyone have their say no matter how absurd
- \* When children ask you questions for example "why is the sky blue?" let them tell you what they think first
- \* When talking with other adults ask your child what they think

## What...

- \* If you are trying to figure something out such as how to fix the broken wheel on a bike ask your child for their ideas of how they think it could be fixed. Talk through their idea & why it might or might not work. Follow it through with tests if possible & try to come to a conclusion together
- \* As your child becomes more proficient in their use of verbal communication spend time together just dreaming of ideas. Imagine what it would be like if.... Or talk about a situation that is happening in your home, community or the world & ask what they think about it & possible solutions for it
- \* When disciplining children try to get them to think of, understand and verbalise what they have done wrong & what they could have done instead

Ask them for  
their ideas

