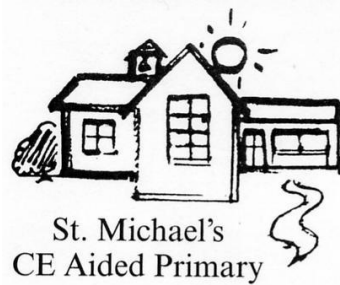


Talk Topic

Information for Parents



Why is talk important?

1. The gift of speech is the greatest gift you can give to your child, apart from the gifts of happiness and good health.
2. We talk to get things we need or want: jobs, shopping, medical help, other help, friendship etc.
3. Talk is our language on paper. The better we can talk, the better we can write.
4. The more words we know and the richer the words we have, plus our confidence in using language for effect, influences how well we succeed in life.

What is Talk Homework?

1. The Homework sheet will tell you what the talk topic is. Please turn off the TV and spend 'special' time talking to me.
2. Could we talk about the Talk Topic while eating meals?
3. We could make our talk more interesting by:
 - Each giving our ideas/opinions
 - Use 'because' to explain what we think
 - Discuss why family members not present may have a different idea
 - Use connectives to make our opinions longer and more interesting
 - Discussing whether things may be different in the future.

What is BIG Talk?

(Talk Topics)

1. Big Talk is a part of the school day when we all talk in high level language
2. In Big Talk we use 'wow' words (big or interesting words) and long, clever sentences
3. When we do Big Writing we use our Big Talk language.

What else can we do?

1. Use 'wow' words. These are big words or interesting words. Tell me what they mean if I don't know.
2. Play games with me, especially some of the more old fashioned games like board games and card games.
3. Play lots of word games with me. These are especially good when we are travelling or waiting for something. Here are some ideas:
 - Give a 'wow' word in a sensible sentence and I have to guess what it means
 - Give an adjective (describing word) and then in turn we have to give more that have a similar or opposite meaning
 - How many? Can we find? Take turns beginning with A...B...C (Boys' names, girls' names, animals, countries, capital cities, seas and oceans)

What is a special bedtime?

1. Once or twice a week, have a 'special' bedtime (if bedtime is not like this already).
2. Snuggle on the bed beside me, or sit close by
3. Talk to me about what I or we have been doing since school finished.
4. Talk to me about your day. Did anything funny happen?
5. Talk to me about tomorrow or the rest of the week:
 - Is anything exciting happening?
 - Am I looking forward to something?
 - Am I worried about anything?
6. What was the best thing about today?
7. Talk with me about something I or we watched on TV.

When else might we talk?

1. In the supermarket talk about:
 - Things we can see
 - Places things come from
 - How things have changed over time
 - How you choose...
 - Guess how much things will cost and who wins
 - Who people you spoke to are and how you know them.
2. At the doctors talk about:
 - Notices and pictures on the wall
 - Why there are magazines and toys
 - Look at a magazine together
 - Look at a story
 - What we are going to do after
3. Travelling to the supermarket, school and other places, talk about:
 - What we see
 - Where we are going
 - What we expect to see or do
 - How we are feeling today
 - What we are looking forward to
 - Things that have happened in the news.