

Other things to try 7a - Talk about things that have happened: 'News Time'

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Why is this important?

Sharing news with others is an important skill for children to learn. As news is generally something that has been completed, the past tense is used. This activity encourages use of past tense forms.

What to do

- Sit down with the child somewhere that is quiet (if possible).
- Ask the child to tell you something he/she did over the weekend/school holidays/when they got home from school.
- Make notes of what the child says so you can refer back to them.
- Encourage the child to use past tense verbs when relaying information – do this by 'modelling' back what he/she says using the correct grammatical elements, e.g.
 - Child: 'I goed to the park and play football.'
 - Adult repeats 'Oh, you *went* to the park and *played* football, I bet that was good'.
- Ask questions to guide and prompt the child to give more information.



Step up

- Encourage the child to recall what he/she has talked about with minimal prompts/fewer pictures, etc.
- Encourage other children to ask a few questions about the child's news.
- Ask for additional information (e.g. 'How did you feel?', 'What was the best thing?').
- Create a scrapbook of family with pictures/photos of where they live, pets, grandparents, favourite toys, etc. to share with other children.



Step down

- Use a home/school book to encourage the parent/s to make a note of a few things that the child has done so the adult can support and increase the successful communication attempts.
- If the child is to feedback his/her news to a group, draw a few pictures to prompt him/her or allow the child to hold the pictures while the adult says the words.
- Take an object into school from home to represent what the child has done.
- Use photographs or prompt objects, like those brought in for show and tell.