

## Special Time

'Special Time' is one on one time that you spend giving your child your undivided attention. It should last for 5 or 10 minutes only. Before you start have a choice of toys available and allow your child to choose an activity, toy or game and follow their interest. Try to be somewhere quiet where you will be undisturbed and deal with any obvious distractions such as radio or TV. Play with your child for five minutes, giving him your undivided attention and try out some of the 'Top Tips' below.

### Top Tips for Speech and Language Development

- Let your child choose a toy



- Copy their ideas, actions and sounds

- Sit where your child can see your face



- Give your child extra silence - wait for them to communicate with words/sounds/gestures/eye contact

- Wait for your child to give eye contact before you respond

- Avoid asking lots of questions



- Name what your child is playing with e.g. "car"

- Listen and repeat what your child says to provide an adult model e.g. child says 'tar', you say "car"

- Repeat what your child says and add a word e.g. child says "car", you say "red car" or "car driving"

- Praise and reinforce your child's ideas

