

## Talking

As a child learns more words they begin to put them together to make phrases and sentences. As the sentences become longer and more complicated the order of words and the grammar becomes very important to help the child get their meaning across.

When a child has difficulty talking they may:

- Have difficulty explaining their thoughts and ideas clearly
- May say things in the wrong order in a sentence
- May use a limited number of verb tenses
- Have difficulty in telling a story or a piece of news
- Have difficulty understanding and using grammatical rules, e.g. "falled" instead of "fell", "mans" instead of "men"
- Use short sentences rather than use and / but/ because to join sentences together.

### Everyday strategies

- Repeat back what the child has said using the correct sentence and grammar.
- When you repeat the sentence back, add a bit more, e.g. "cat drinking" adult: *"the cat is drinking the water"*
- Use pictures to encourage story telling by getting your child to put the pictures in the correct order and tell you what is happening.
- Take photos of your child playing or participating in daily activities. Talk about these and model good sentences.

