



Horn Park

Supporting communication
at home

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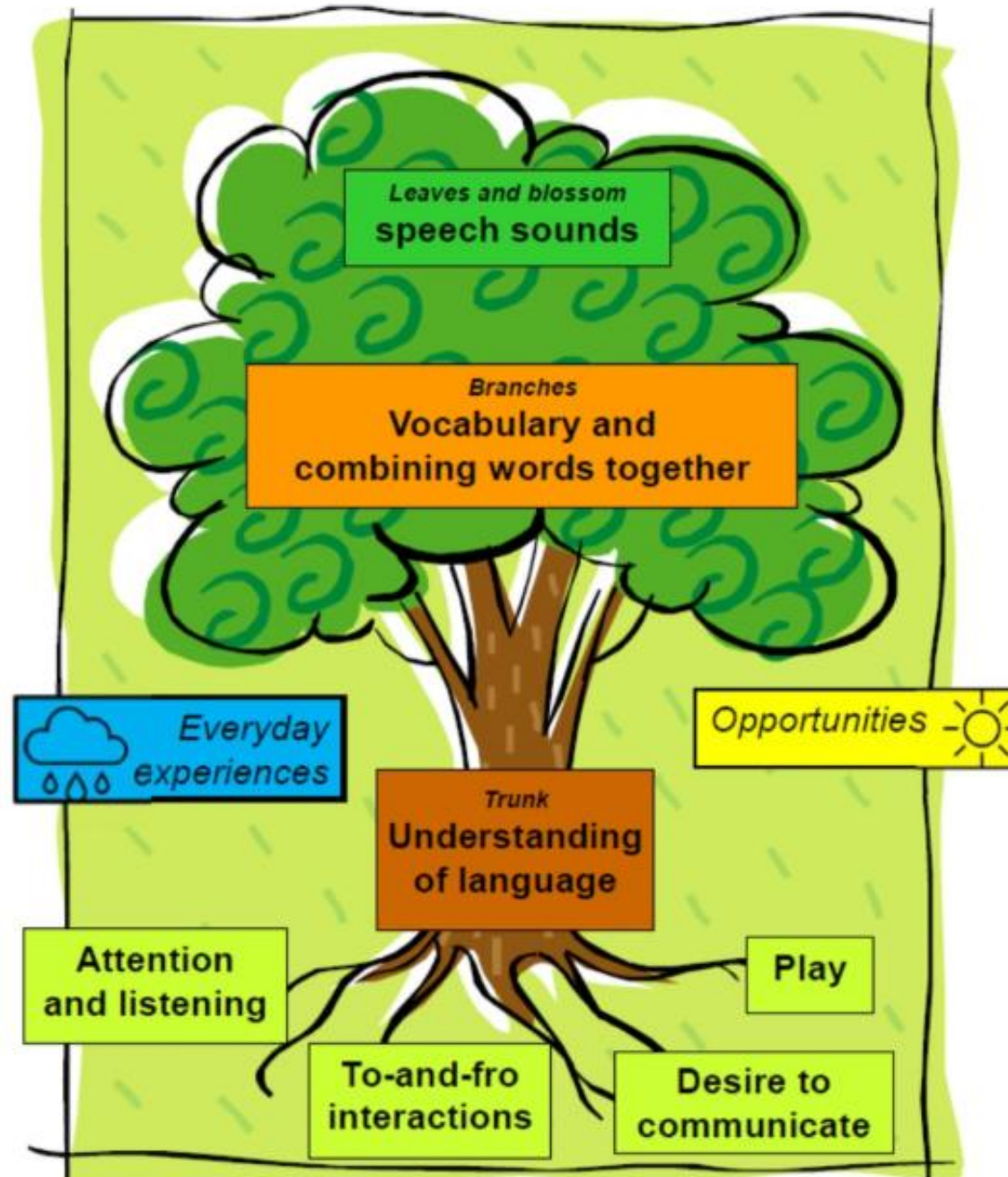
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Welcome and introductions

- Opportunity to think about **communication**
- Explore some ways to **encourage communication and connection** at home

Communication tree





How was
your day?



fine

Connection before conversation

- Connection is key
- Communication = sharing
- Follow their lead
- Listening and waiting
- Join them - few minutes, no screens
- Side-by-side can help children to open up
- Food!

Model don't quiz

Early
communicators

Too many questions can feel like a test.

Instead, **comment** on what your child is doing, saying, or showing interest in.

Instead of: *"What's this? What colour is it?"*

Try: *"This is a red bus. ...brmmm....fast!"*

Child: *"Car!"*

Parent: *"Yes, car. **Driving the car!**"*

Model don't quiz

Conversation builders

Instead of:

“What did you do in maths?”

Try:

“You’ve got glitter on your jumper — looks like something arty happened today!”

This invites them to add information naturally, without feeling put on the spot.

Model sharing first

Show them *how* to talk about a day:

“My favourite part of my day was.....”

Activity :

Chat with a partner

When do you find your child the most talkative?

Straight after school

In the car

Bed time

When eating

Every-day routines

early communicators

- Build communication into everyday routines
- Add in small changes to what you already do.
- **Talk through routines** (making breakfast, getting dressed, bathtime).
- For early communicators, use simple talk: *“socks on!” “spread the butter” etc*

Every-day
routines

conversation
builders

Involve them in the process: packing their bag (sequencing)

“first let’s get your water bottle, then your school book”

School run: commenting:

“I see a”

Eating: sharing opinions:

“this pizza is yummy, what do you think?”

Take aways

- **Connection** is key. Follow their lead, communication grows from shared experience.
- **Listening and waiting** are just as important as talking.
- **Model** don't quiz
- **Everyday routines** are golden opportunities for connection.



**What might you
do differently...**

Any questions?

Thank you!

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