

Making a talking box

What you will need:

An empty box with lid, basket (which can be covered), pillow case or canvas shopping bag.

Everyday items from home to put in your talking box, which will help with conversations. These could include:

- Finger puppets and a story or info book that links with the puppets
- Games and puzzles
- Themed items e.g. dinosaurs, your child's favourite animal or favourite place
- Pictures of different things such as vehicles, seasonal landscapes, families, baby toys and equipment, animals or TV and book characters
- Natural materials, such as pine cones, acorns and conkers, different coloured leaves, pebbles and bark.

Ideas for using your talking box:

- Your child could pick one thing: 'What's this?' or 'Tell me about your....'
- Talk about similarities and differences, or your child's likes and dislikes.
- Talk to the puppets or make up a story about them.
- Play with a puzzle, talking about what happens next, taking turns etc.
- Chat about the things your child had or did as a baby.

Talking box top tips:

- Make it fun for you and your child!
- Let your child lead the discussion.
- Give your child time to respond.
- Try not to ask too many questions.
- Use your talking box every week.
- Mix and match the activities and discussions you have.