

# Talk Together, Learn Together With Coltale

Use these cards to spark interesting conversations and create memorable experiences while exploring the City of London with your child.

Complete a task and enter the prize draw for a chance to win a Coltale puppet.



Look, listen and chat!

# Look, listen, and chat.

**The conversations you have with  
your child can make a difference  
to their future.**



## **Did you know?**

Exploring London with children under five can be a delightful experience as they explore their world around them.



# Why?

**The first five years of a child's life have a big impact. The development that happens helps improve their future learning, happiness and wellbeing.**

You can help this development by finding opportunities to talk and listen to them as often as you can, and introduce them to new things.



# How?

- Read the cards for ideas, and take them out with you.
- Follow your child's lead (notice what they're interested in).
- Every conversation you have with your child will make a difference.





# You might notice and talk about...

Things that are living, that move, that you can hear or smell, the weather, letters and numbers, different ways you can move, patterns, textures and more.



# You could:

Count

1 2 3 4

Play I Spy



Use your senses

Notice the small things



Move in different ways



Splash in a puddle



Sing a song or nursery rhyme



Make up a story or song



**Encourage your child to  
listen to different sounds.  
This will help them to  
become a good listener.**



**Did you know?**

When you copy what your child says, it shows them you are listening. Adding an extra word or two teaches them new words, and how to say longer sentences.



# Activity 1: Walk to Tower Bridge

Talk about its unique design and functions.

Learn words like drawbridge. What sounds did you hear on the way?

Encourage your child to listen carefully at how the lorries and buses make different sounds from cars and bicycles when they cross the bridge.

Walk along the Thames where your child can enjoy the sights and sounds of the river.



**Take your child's dummy  
(soother/pacifier) out of  
their mouth when they are  
talking.**



**Did you know?**

Dummies get in the way, stop children from talking clearly and could delay speech development.



## Activity 2: Attend a Stay and Play session



Talk and listen intently to your child while they play.

Children develop listening and understanding skills by observing and reacting to others.

Several regular weekly Stay and Play events are accessible via the City of London timetable on the FIS website:

[www.fis.cityoflondon@gov.uk](mailto:www.fis.cityoflondon@gov.uk)

# Have fun with nursery rhymes and songs, especially those with actions.



## **Did you know?**

Singing and reciting nursery rhymes with your child will help them with early phonics.



## Activity 3: Attend a Rhyme Time session

These take place regularly at Shoe Lane, Artizan or Barbican libraries.

Join in and sing rhymes alongside your child during the session; as this is proven to aid language acquisition. Talk about what songs you sang together. Don't forget to take a book home with you!





**Play “talking tennis” with  
your child.  
Say something to them and  
then give them time to  
respond.**



**Top Tip:**

Wait at least 10-15 seconds for your  
child to respond when you speak to  
them.



## Activity 4: Look up at The Gherkin



Help your child to use more words by adding to what they say. If your child says “look,” and points to The Gherkin, reply by saying, “Yes, it’s a big building”. Or ask open-ended questions, such as “I wonder how long it would take to get to the top?”

Give your child plenty of time to think and speak.

**Use the language you know best when talking to your child. It helps brain development and learning English, if they already know the words in your home language.**



**Did You Know**

Research suggests that bilingual children demonstrate enhanced cognitive abilities compared to monolingual children.



# Activity 5: Go to Borough Market

Visit a Street Food Market like Borough Market and discuss the diversity of foods. Talk about the different fruits, vegetables and meats, as well as the different dishes and meals.

Children in this age group are interested in food, especially their favourite snacks, meals, or desserts.



**If your child looks or points  
at something, talk about it.  
This shows them you  
understand what they are  
trying to tell you.**

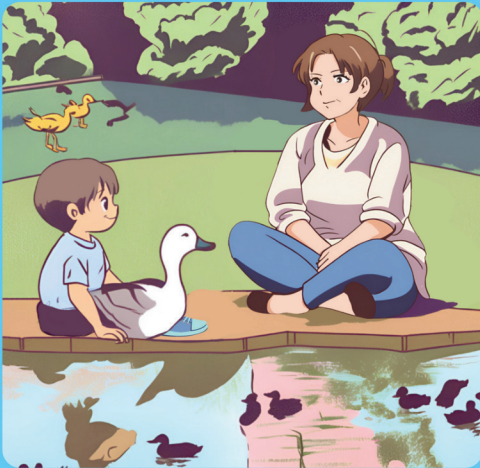


**Top Tip:**

Not only can you help your child to look more closely and notice things but you can also encourage them to talk about what they see and hear.



# Activity 6: Walk in a Green Space



Go for a walk with your child to a green space. You could discuss the weather, is it rainy or sunny?

What have they observed in nature, like leaves, flowers and bugs?

Enjoy finding open spaces for running, playing, and exploring. Have a picnic and look for ducks, pigeons, and squirrels.

# Talking and learning with Coltale – evaluation

We hope you enjoyed these conversation starters, and you continue to focus on what excites your child's curiosity and connects to their daily experiences. Encourage your child to ask "what", "how" or "why" questions as their curiosity grows.



← Rip card away from ring here!

## POSTCARD

What did you do and talk about with you child? Tell us (below) about one activity that you did together, so you can be entered into a prize draw!



Write your:

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's age: \_\_\_\_\_

Once completed, rip off this card and hand it to a librarian in Artizan, Barbican or Shoe Lane Library or to your child's Early Years setting.