PHOTOCOPIABLE

Play plan: Topic talk

Name: ..... Key person: .....

Area of Learning: CD

Focus: Expressing and Communicating Ideas

Individual target: Gauge what the listener already knows when discussing topics

1. Observe the way that ☺ shares a topic of interest. Be aware of whether ☺ talks non-stop about favourite subjects. Would people who don't know ☺ understand what ☺ was saying? Perhaps it's time to target this.

2. Pretend you do not know what ☺ is talking about. Interrupt with a hand signal and a question, '☺, what are we talking about? – Thank you. Now tell me.'

3. In time, you can simply use the hand signal and ☺ will learn to pause in mid-flow and cue you in to the topic under discussion.

4. Continue to use interested questions to help ☺ to tell you the context. When did it happen? Who said that? What else happened? What happened next?

5. Set up a situation with two puppets in which your puppet knows something interesting and the other puppet has to guess what it is.

6. Set up talking times with adults who do not know ☺ . Help ☺ to explain something interesting or new to them. Make sure the adults ask questions if they cannot follow what is said.

7. Look out for situations when ☺ needs help to tune in to what other children might be thinking or feeling. Praise specifically when you spot ☺ making use of what has been learned.

8. Help ☺ to prepare a little talk on a favourite topic for group time. Help ☺ work out what the children need to know. Help ☺ to choose props and talk about why these are helpful.