

# Teacher Talk Tactics for early language development



## Instigate

Present an idea  
or open up a new  
line of enquiry



"I think\_\_

"Let's begin with\_\_

"I have a great idea, I'll go  
first\_\_

**Invite: X would you  
like to go first?**

## Build

Develop, add to  
or elaborate on  
an idea



" Building onto\_\_

"X's idea made me think\_\_

"Yes, and \_\_\_\_

"Building on X's idea \_\_\_\_

**Invite: Would anyone  
like to add to that?**

## Clarify

Ask questions to  
make things clearer  
and check your  
understanding



" Do you mean that\_\_?

"I think you are saying \_\_

"So, what you're saying is  
\_\_

**Invite: Do you have  
any questions about  
X?**

## Challenge

Disagree or present  
an alternative  
argument



" To challenge you, I  
disagree with \_\_

" I don't think \_\_

"You said \_\_ but what  
about \_\_"

**Invite: Does anyone  
disagree with X?**

# Instigate



**“ I think \_\_\_\_**

**“Let’s begin with\_\_\_\_**

**“I have a great idea, I’ll  
go first\_\_\_\_**

# Challenge



**“ To challenge you, I disagree \_\_**

**“I don’t think \_\_**

**“You said \_\_ but what about**

# Build



**“ Building onto \_\_**

**“X’s idea made me think \_\_**

**“I’d like to know more about \_\_**

**“Yes and \_\_**

**“Building on X’s idea\_\_**

# Clarify



**“ Do you mean that \_\_\_\_\_**

**“I think you are saying \_\_\_\_\_**

**“So, what you’re saying is**

**\_\_\_\_\_**