Top Tips for Using an iPad

✔ Model the use of the iPad to the child consistently throughout their daily routine/activities. Repetition is the key to helping your child learn.

✔ Aim to model language one step ahead of where the child is currently. For example; if the child is just starting to learn how to use their iPad then model single words in context (e.g. biscuit). If the child can already communicate single words using their iPad then model putting two words together (e.g. more biscuit).

✔ After you have used the iPad to communicate something, pause to let the child learn, and respond if they would like to.

✔ Everyone who is communicating with the child should use the iPad as well; this helps the child learn how to use it to communicate by watching, and motivates them to communicate in the same way.

✔ Use the child's interests to motivate them to communicate using the iPad (e.g. practise using it for things like snack time, chatting about favourite characters/people etc.)

✔ Make sure the iPad is available to the child at all times to allow communication to take place.

✘ Don't expect the child to use grammatically correct phrases/sentences, just focus on the meaning of their message (e.g. The child does not have to say "I want a biscuit" using their iPad, "want biscuit" is fine).

✘ Avoid using the iPad to 'test' the child e.g. "Can you find apple?", it is for commenting and chatting.

✘ Don't stop using the iPad even if the child doesn't choose to use it; they need you to show them how it can be used.