**Appendix C – Contingent Talk Intervention Video Script**

**SECTION: INTRODUCTION (*Researcher to camera)***

[Thank](file:///\\Thank) you for agreeing to take part in this study of child development. All parents want the best for their children. There’s lots of advice out there about how to keep them healthy, how to help them learn and develop. But it’s not always obvious what is good advice and what is just opinion. At the University of Sheffield, we are really interested in helping parents find out what really works by testing (out) what advice for parents actually does help children learn and what isn’t so effective. We really need parents help for that so we are incredibly grateful that you have volunteered to take part in this study of how children learn to talk.

**SECTION: WHY IS LANGUAGE IMPORTANT? (*Researcher to camera*)**

Around their 1st birthdays and they begin their journey of learning to talk. Different babies go about this in different ways. Some babies are very quick to learn to talk. Others take a longer time but catch up later on; they’re just taking their good time! But certainly by the time babies go to nursery school or primary school having good language skills can really help. You can imagine that you can understand what your baby means right now, but when they are being looked after by someone else they may not be able to guess so easily what they need. So children when they reach primary school or nursery school rely on language to be able to communicate their needs, what they are interested in and also to be able to understand other people be it friends or teachers, so they can take part in group activities.

**SECTION: HOW DO BABIES LEARN TO TALK (*Researcher to camera*)**

Babies learn to talk in situations where it is easy for them to understand what is going on. So when it is easy for them to understand what it going it, it’s easy for them to understand what people are talking about when they are talking about what is going on. So there are lots of different ways we can help with this, one that has attracted a lot of attention in recent research is the idea that reading books with babies early on can help them learn to talk. This might seem quite unusual or even unnatural with an 11 month old. Their attention is all over the place, they may not find it easy to sit down with a book even for a few minutes. The idea is, if you give this a go, the more you sit with a book, the more usual they find it and so the longer you can sit there and actually start to talk about some of the pictures. The main advice for this video that we would like to test out is a technique called Tune in and Talk.

**SECTION: TUNE IN AND TALK** (*Researcher Voiceover overlaying photographic stills*)

The main idea is to find a good moment to settle down with your baby and a book. Once they’re engaged you can **TUNE** in to what your baby is focusing on and then **TALK** to them about it. This can be trickier than it seems because babies’ attention can be fleeting! But they do use lots of ways to show that something has captured their attention.

For example, they will **look at the pictures** and might even **touch** or **point** to something on the page. They might try to lift flaps on a book or **laugh**, **shout** or **babble** about what they see.

The idea of ‘Tune In and Talk’ is to notice what has captured their attentions and then talk to them about it. Hearing words that describe what they are interested in, when they are interested in it can make it easier for them to learn to talk

For example: This baby is interested in the stars in their book. If they were to hear the word ‘*star*’ while they are looking at it there is a good chance they’d learn that word.

If the baby’s interest held, you could even talk about where and when you see them: *“STARs in the sky”*

* you could count the stars together “*one STAR, two STARs, three STARs”*
* or sing a song if you know one! *“twinkle twinkle little STAR”*

You don’t need to read the exact words in the book; in fact, if you’d rather not you could just talk about the pictures.

At first, the moments when your baby is interested in a book might seem few and far between.

But as they get used to sitting down with books, and they get used to you talking about them, it will get easier and easier. You’ll be able to have a conversation that helps them learn to talk. –

Let’s watch some examples

In this first clip, the boy is interested in the pictures in his book and we can tell that because he is

* **looking** at them,
* **pointing** to them
* and **vocalising**

His mum TUNES in to what he is interested in and TALKS to him about it. She talks about…

* the little boy
* the cuddly teddy bear
* and the little girl

*Clip 1*

In this next video, the mum helps her daughter to lift the flap on a book. She describes what is inside saying “hot!”, “cake” and “yummy yummy”. Hearing the word “cake” while she is looking at it might really help this little girl learn that word.

*Clip 2*

In this next clip we see a little boy looking at a **tram**. His mum tells him what it is and tells him about a trip they have taken on a tram once when he points to the motorbike, his mum notices that his attention has switched and, she points to it too, and then they talk about it instead.

*Clip 3*

**SECTION: SUMMARY** (*Researcher Voiceover overlaying photographic stills*)

In the videos we’ve just seen parents **tune in to what their baby was focusing on** and **talk to them about it**.

We think that spending 10 minutes a day looking at books in this way could really help your baby learn to talk and we are running this study to find out if that’s right.

We’d be really grateful if you could spend 10 minutes every day to try out this way of looking at books with your baby. 10 minutes can seem a long time with a baby…

You don’t need to do it all in one go. If they get bored or fussy, it’s okay to take a break and try again when they’re in the mood.

You can look at books at any time of day; you don’t need to wait for bedtime, just any time when they are awake and calm.

The main idea is to TUNE IN and TALK about picture books with your baby every day. We think this could make a real difference in helping your baby learn to talk and that could make a real difference for later life. Thank you for helping us find out if it works!