

## Professional Learning

# Language-based Learning in Child and Adult Interactions

## James in the kitchen

James, 5, comes into the kitchen, just as his mother has taken some cakes out of the oven. There is a loud metallic 'crack'.

*James:* Who did that?

*Mother:* I expect it was the tin contracting.

*James:* Which tin?

*Mother:* The one with your pastry in.

*James:* Why did it make that noise?

*Mother:* Well, when it was in the oven, it got very hot and stretched a bit. I've just taken it out of the oven, and it's cooling down very quickly, you see, and that noise happens when it gets smaller again and goes back to its ordinary shape.

*James:* Oh! Was it a different shape in the oven?

*Mother:* Not very different. Just a little bigger.

*James:* Naughty little tin. You might get smacked - if you do it again.

Gordon Wells 1986