

# Supporting Communication Skills

Top Tips!

## Get Face to face

Get down on your child's level.

This allows them to see your non-verbal cues such as facial expressions, and how your mouth moves when you say words.

## Accept all communication

Accept all forms of communication!

This may be pointing, gestures, eye pointing (looking), vocalising, using symbols, objects and so on.

## Model, Model, Model

This essentially means you use the verbal language, gestures, signing, symbols and the form of communication that your child is using, whilst not having any expectations that they themselves will reciprocate this.

## Follow their lead

We all learn best when having fun and when things are meaningful to us!

Watch what your child is interested in and join in with them or alongside them.

Try not to direct their play.

## Reduce Questions

Try commenting and narrating play instead.

We often ask questions to see what children know. However we first need to support children to learn by creating a safe, low demand, and fun environment to promote learning and communication.

## Offer Choices

Offer two choices when playing. Hold these out to your child and see which one they look at, reach for, point to, etc.

Honour their choice and model the language of what they have chosen by labelling it verbally, signing, gesturing, etc.

## Allow pauses

We often want to fill in any gaps or pauses.

It is important to allow pauses as this provides processing time, time to listen and respond.

## Copy and add words

Copy what your child says or communicates and add to this e.g. they may communicate 'bubbles' so you could model 'more bubbles'.



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