



Speech Pathology

Child Development Service

Helping Your Child Communicate

Children learn best when interacting and having fun with you. Make the most of the time you spend with your child.

Find ways to have fun together at home, outside and in the community.

Some ideas you might like to try...

<p>Watch</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Be face-to-face ■ Get down to your child's level ■ Pay attention to what your child is doing 	<div style="text-align: center;"> <pre> graph TD A[1. Watch] --> B[2. Wait... and notice your child's turn] B --> C[3. Respond] C --> A </pre> </div>
<p>Wait... and notice your child's turn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Wait patiently for your child to have a turn ■ Look at and lean slightly towards your child ■ Notice what your child does and says when they take a turn 	
<p>Respond to your child</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Talk about what your child is doing and interested in ■ Copy and add actions and words to what your child does and says ■ Say words to go with what you think your child is trying to say ■ Use short sentences and repeat the key words ■ Speak slowly ■ Use gesture, facial expression, an interesting voice and make fun sounds 	

When to use these ideas...

You can use these ideas to help your child communicate at any time. For example:

Everyday routines	Book sharing	Play
<p>A routine is an activity that you do regularly and in the same way each time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use the ideas in everyday routines such as getting dressed, bath time ■ Sing songs and play fun games like hide-and-seek <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>Book sharing creates a special time for being together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Choose books that interest your child ■ Use the book sharing triangle ■ Use comments rather than questions when sharing the book <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>Play is a great time to join in with what your child is interested in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Join in your child's play with people and toys ■ Join in pretend play ■ Play together outside with sand, water or at the park <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Remember...

- Children learn best when they have a safe and secure relationship with you (their caregiver).
- Good hearing is important for learning how to talk.
- As children grow older, using dummies can affect their talking and how their teeth grow.
- Speak to your child in the language you speak best.
- Minimise screen time such as TV, mobile phones and iPads.

Where else to get help and information...

- **Circle of Security** (circleofsecurityinternational.com) to learn more about developing a safe and secure relationship with your child
- **Playgroup WA** (1800 171 882 / playgroupwa.com.au) to find your local playgroup
- **Raising Children Network** (raisingchildren.net.au) for child development and parenting information
- **Better Beginnings** (better-beginnings.com.au) to learn more about sharing books with children and libraries

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

This publication is provided for general education and information purposes.
Contact a qualified healthcare professional for any medical advice needed.

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