

# Follow Your Child's Lead



Talk about what your child is doing or looking at.

Listen carefully and give your child time to talk. If they start a topic, point to or name an item, continue to talk about this, when it is your turn.

Let your child choose the activity from a choice of two things.

Involve your child's interests.

Have a special time each day where your child can choose an activity maybe a book or toy for you to look at or play with together.

All these suggestions can be summarised by using the OWL technique.



O - Observe

W - Wait

L - Listen

# Commenting



Talk about what your child is doing as they are doing it. For example, "bread..cutting bread..mmm...eating bread"

Make a comment rather than asking a question. Instead of saying "where's the car going" say "the car's going under the bridge". If you take the pressure off your child to talk, you might find they will talk more.

Talk about what you are doing as you are doing it. If you do the same things on a daily basis, keep the language you use the same from day to day. For example, "look. Get cup, pour juice, pour water, drink".

Keep your language SIMPLE and REPETITIVE.

Make sure your Language is at your child's level.

If your child is using single words, you use one or two words, for example, "ball .... Big ball".

If your child is using short sentences, you use short phrases too, for example, "I want Bubbles".

# Taking Turns



Play turn taking games;

Roll a ball to each other

Take turns to cuddle teddy

Take turns to blow bubbles

Take turns to turn the pages in a book

Take turns to put sand in a bucket to make a sand castle

Take turns to put pieces in a puzzle

Take turns to build a tower with bricks

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Use "my turn" and "your turn" repetitively and consistently as you turn take.

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Use a gesture such as touching your chest to indicate "my turn" and "your turn" and encourage your child to copy.

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Use a prompt, for example, "wait" and an accompanying gesture, for example, your palm facing out, to help your child learn to wait for their turn.

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Praise "GOOD WAITING" even if is for a short period of time!



# Signing



To Support  
Children's Language Development

## Why sign?

- ✚ Builds on natural ability to gesture
- ✚ Improves attention and listening
- ✚ Pressure for speech is removed
- ✚ Language is simplified and slowed down
- ✚ Aids comprehension and helps children express themselves
- ✚ It is a visual reinforcement to speech

## Principles of signing:

1. Gain child's attention and make eye contact.
2. Always accompany signs with clear speech and facial expression.
3. Sign 'key words'- words that are important for meaning. Keep simple and short.
4. Reward any attempt to communicate.
5. Signs need to be continually reinforced by all who are in the setting.
6. Use signs about here and now.
7. Keep sign in front of the body - near face if appropriate.
8. Check you know a sign before you approach the child/activity.
9. Keep signing, even if the child doesn't readily copy.
10. Signing skills are developed through experience.
11. It doesn't matter which hand you use - but be consistent.
12. Have Fun!

Useful addresses and publications

Makaton - [www.makaton.org](http://www.makaton.org) - telephone - 0127661390

Dictionary of British Sign Language - [www.forestbooks.com](http://www.forestbooks.com) - telephone 01594833858

Signalong - [www.signalong.org.uk](http://www.signalong.org.uk) - telephone 08707743752

BBC's Mr Tumble - [www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/somethingspecial/mrtumble](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/somethingspecial/mrtumble)

# Choices



- ❖ Increase vocabulary and opportunities to communicate by offering choices.
- ❖ Choices of two items, for example, "orange or apple?" can be given throughout the day. Use toys, videos, food, drinks, clothes, etc.
- ❖ Say each choice and show items at the same time. Your child may reach for / point to / or ask for the one they want.
- ❖ Offer a choice even when you can guess what the answer will be. If the child points to the one that you know they don't like or don't want, still give it to them to encourage your child to learn how to make the right choice.
- ❖ Give your child the language once they have made the choice, for example, "orange", at a single word level, or "I want orange" at a sentence level.
- ❖ Have a special time with your child every day where your child can choose an activity / toy / book, and you follow their lead.



# Match + one

You can encourage your child's language development by using 'match + one'.



Here's how to do it;

If your child says 'cat', match what they say and + one more word

e.g. 'cat gone'

If your child says 'mummy car', match what they say and + one more word

e.g. 'mummy's driving car'

or 'mummy's blue car'

or 'mummy's dirty car'.

If your child says 'truck go fast', match what they say and + one more word

e.g. 'big truck go fast'

or 'red truck's going fast'



# Sequencing



Carry out simple every day sequences together

- For example, put food on a plate, making a cup of tea, making a sandwich, putting clothes in a washing machine, etc.

Talk about what you and your child are doing as you are doing it

- "spoon in cup"
- "stir the spoon", etc

Show your child the next stage in a sequence, for example, if they put the bread on a plate, you can show them how to put the butter on and how to cut it.

Use words such as "first", "next" and "last" to help your child to develop their understanding of these terms.



# Parallel play

Copy what your child is doing and saying in their play (this includes copying babbling and other sound effects they might make). This is a powerful way to help your child begin to understand that interests and attention on a task can be shared and that their actions and the sounds they make have an impact on someone else. This is a simple, but incredibly powerful way to encourage social relationships and communication.

E.G;

Mirror your child as they push a car back and forth across the floor. If they lie down to play, lie down too. When they reach for another car, you get another one too.



# Strategies to help your child communicate

Use gestures and signs with your child



Copy your child's play, sounds and words



Observe and listen to your child while they are playing



Wait and pause for a response when playing together



Give your child time to make a choice or a request



Add simple commentary instead of asking questions



Use photos and pictures



Sing songs and look at book together



Follow your child's lead



Praise any attempts your child makes to communicate

