

Speech And Language Therapy Advice

Communicative Temptations

The following activities are some ideas of how you can 'set up' situations to encourage your child to initiate with you e.g. by reaching for desired items, pointing, making requests.

- Initiate a familiar social game (tickling, bouncing on knee, blowing on the face/feet, swinging round etc) with your child until he expresses pleasure, then stop the game and wait for him to provide some indication that he wants you to continue eg eye contact, vocalising, saying 'more'.
- Open a jar of bubbles, blow bubbles, then close the jar tightly. Hand the closed jar to the child. Again wait for your child to request more.
- Blow up a balloon and slowly deflate it. Hand the deflated balloon to the child or hold the deflated balloon to your mouth and wait.
- Place a desired food item or toy in a clear container that the child cannot open while the child is watching. Put the container in front of the child and wait.
- Place your child's drink or favourite toy out of reach. Wait for him to indicate that he wants it eg pointing, reaching, gaining your attention, saying 'drink'.
- Engage the child in putting together a puzzle. After the child has put in 3 pieces, offer the child a piece that does not fit.
- Wave and say "bye bye" to a toy upon removing it from the play area. Repeat this for a second and third toy, and do nothing when removing a fourth toy. Will your child look towards you or say 'bye bye'?
- Hide a stuffed animal under the table. Knock, then bring out the animal. Have the animal greet the child the first time. Repeat this for a second and third time, and do nothing when bringing out the animal for the fourth time.
- Put an object that makes noise in an opaque bag and shake the bag. Hold up the bag and wait.