

10 Tips for promoting communication with your child



FOLLOW YOUR CHILD'S LEAD/INTERESTS

Talk about what is catching their eye

BE AT THE SAME LEVEL

Be face to face with your child to model eye contact, facial expressions and tone

EASY TO UNDERSTAND LANGUAGE

Simplify words so your child understands

WAIT FOR UP TO 10 COUNTS

Observe, wait and listen for up to 10 seconds whilst waiting for a child to respond

COMMENT RATHER THAN QUESTION

"your car is shiny" rather than "what colour is your car?"
One question to every five comments

OFFER CHOICES

"Would you like an Apple or a Pear for your snack?" If your child points then model the language "oh, you would like the Pear!".

MODEL

If your child says something incorrectly, model the correct way to say it

EXPAND

Try and add one word e.g. child says ball, you say "yes, red ball".

INTRODUCE NEW VOCABULARY

Words your child might not typically hear e.g. "Look at these bubbles, they are so delicate"

HAVE FUN!

Have fun with silly words - healthy interactions promote dopamine and serotonin. It feels good to communicate so children want to continue doing it!

