

Supportive Steps: Interaction



Communication
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Responsive Communication

Respond to any attempts your child makes to communicate. Show them that their action has had an effect!



Model

Even if your child's communication isn't clear, demonstrate *conversational turn taking* and intonation. For example, if your child shows you an item, respond to them and comment on what it is "wow, a teddy bear".

Pauses

When interacting with your child, provide pauses for them to fill. For example, if your child has approached you to ask for "more" of a snack, prompt "you want... (wait) ... more apple!".

Find out more
here:



Praise!

Praise your child for any attempts at interaction they make. This might be a response to something you've said, bringing you a toy or waiting in anticipation for something to happen.



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Copy!

Show your child that their actions have an effect by mirroring what they do. See if they notice, and if they do, add to what they're doing. For example, make an extra noise or add a clap. See if they copy what you've done in return.



Open ended questions

Ask open ended questions while playing with your child to give them opportunities to respond. If your child finds it challenging to respond you can model responses. For example, "what happened to the man next?"...(wait)..."I think he flew to the farm!"

Turn taking

Encourage turn taking during motivating games. Start by doing this 1:1 with your child, then as they grow more confident, bring in other friends or family members, one at a time. Use consistent language such as "your turn", "my turn", "whose turn is next?"



Adult led

Create opportunities for your child to respond and interact with you by leading some activities. For example, if building a tower, keep the blocks to encourage your child to interact with you when they need more blocks.



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