

HELPING A CHILD DEVELOP THEIR EARLY COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Play together as much as possible...you already do...try and do so even more!



Offer them a choice as much as possible during the day e.g. don't pick out their socks, say "red socks" or "blue socks" and repeat again the words for the ones they chose.

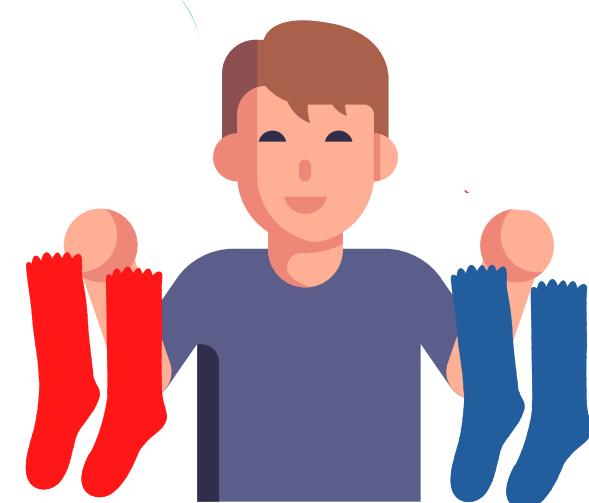


Follow their lead and copy them when they are playing - do what they do and say. Join in but let them show you what they are doing.

When you know they might want something, wait, leave an expectant pause for them to speak, say the word for them and repeat it. Observe them to catch these moments.



Play games and sing songs where they need you e.g. spinning them around, action songs, tickling them, chasing them, hide and seek etc.



Always give a description when saying well done e.g. you drank the milk well done." This gives them a connection between the words and what they did.



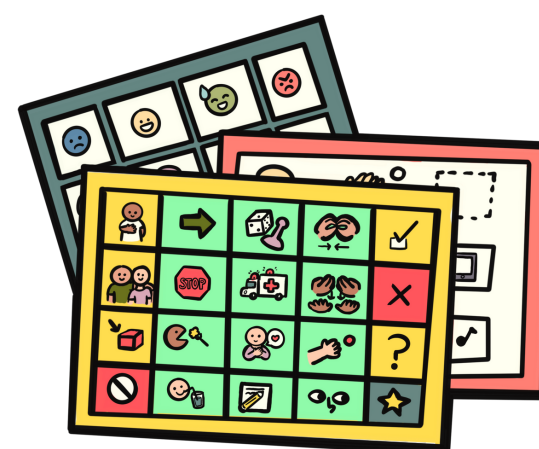
Use simple language that matches the language they use. Label object words and action words. If they use single words, you do too and sometimes add a second word e.g. "car," "drive car," "car beep,"



Put things they use/want out of their reach and say "help," or the name of the object and wait for a response before getting it for them.



Be present during daily routines and set aside talking time e.g. 5 minutes longer in the bath talking to them.



Show them objects/pictures, symbols/signing, when you use words, to help their understanding of what you are saying.



Practise turn taking in simple activities like ball rolling, building a tower, rolling a car down the ramp etc.



If your child is enjoying something, create a reason for them to ask for more e.g. give part of a snack not a whole snack.



Offer exciting play activities and toys that catch their attention like flashing, noisy, light up, moving, wind up, bubbles, sensory toys etc. Keep some toys in a box that only come out every now and again.



When you think they need help, ask them and wait. Then help them. This gives them an opportunity to ask you.