



Speech-Language Pathology

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Kids are great! We just make'em better.®

Communication Temptations

Encourage Your Child to Ask for Something

- Eat food/drink your child likes without giving him a bite or sip.
- Put an object that makes noise in clear box or jar. Shake the container and wait.
- “Forget” to give your child something he needs (example: a spoon to eat breakfast, a crayon to color a picture, a wand to blow bubbles). If your child does not ask for it in 2 minutes, hold up the object and wait.

Encourage Your Child to Say “No”

- When your child points to ask for one toy, give your child a different toy or an object she did not ask for. Wait for your child to tell you “no” or shake her head.
- Offer food that your child does not like. Wait for your child to tell you “no” or shake her head.

Encourage Your Child to Ask for “Help” or “More”

- Place a favorite food or toy in a clear box or jar that your child cannot open. Put the container in front of your child and wait.
- Place your child's hands in a cold, wet, or sticky substance, such as Jell-O, pudding or paste.
- Start a wind-up toy, let it stop and hand it to your child.
- Blow bubbles once, close the jar, give it to your child and then wait.
- Sing one line of a favorite song to your child and stop. Wait for your child to tell you he wants you to keep singing.
- Play Peek-a-Boo or Patty-Cake once with your child. Stop the game and wait.

Encourage Your Child to Comment or Use Social Words

- Roll a ball to your child. After your child returns the ball three times, roll a different toy to the child and wait for her to say something.
- Put together a puzzle. After your child has put in three pieces, offer a piece that does not fit.
- Be messy. Play with something that can be spilled, dropped, or taken apart. Spill or drop the item and wait for your child to respond.
- Say “bye-bye” to 3 toys as you put them away. Put the 4th toy away without saying anything and wait for your child to say “bye-bye.”
- Hide a stuffed animal under the table. Knock, and then bring out the animal. Have the animal say “Hi” the first time. Do this again 2 times and wait for your child to say “Hi” the next time.