

# Create opportunities for your child to communicate



As adults we want the best for children, and for their wants and needs to be met. But if children have everything they want to hand, they do not have a reason to communicate with you. It is important to create situations which encourage communication.

The following situations will help you to create these opportunities. With all of these examples, remember to wait for 10 seconds. Keep on looking interested and expectant!

Your child's turn might be a look, a small smile, a nod/shake of the head, a vocalisation, a gesture or a little reach to start with. Accept all of these subtle turns as valid attempts to communicate to start with.

You can then add the words e.g. 'oh you need more ...', 'I can see you like bubbles, more bubbles', 'The room is dark, uh oh... wait.. light on' and so on.



- Activate a wind up toy, let it deactivate, hand it to your child and wait.
- Blow bubbles for your child to pop, then stop. Wait for your child to indicate they want 'more'.
- Place your child's favourite toy or cup out of reach, where they can see it and wait.

- When at the sink, instead of taking over and turning on the tap, wait for your child to indicate to turn on the tap.
- When pouring a drink only give a little, wait for your child to indicate they want 'more'.



Give your child

- A small amount of biscuit/ 1 grape/ 1 chip
- An unopened crisp packet
- A carton with the straw attached

Wait and see what your child does next!