

When I try to play with or talk to my child, they wander off to do something else. They find it hard to concentrate.

Follow their Lead



Why?

At this age, we can't expect children to be interested in our choice of activity. By letting them take the lead, we show we are interested and help them to concentrate for longer.



Out and About

- Watch to see what your child looks at or points to in the park or the street.
- Listen to the noises that your child makes.
- They may attempt new words.
- Give them the words to say it as if they would if they could, e.g. "eh" .. "yes, car".
- Wait for up to 15 seconds to see if they make more sounds

What can I do?

- Sit back and let your child take the lead.
- Sit facing your child.
- Watch them carefully.
- Copy what your child is doing, both the actions and the sounds.

Bath Time

- Get down to your child's level and get face to face. Have fun playing together.
- Watch to see what your child likes to do.
- Copy back what they do e.g. splashing, dropping a toy, squealing.
- Say a word that goes with what they do. E.g. "splash".
- **Remember** - avoid questions and instructions!

At Home

- Watch what your child is doing or playing with. Get down to their level and talk about what they are doing
- When you notice your child is attempting to communicate with you, show you are interested so your child will know you are listening.

