

How To...Create Communication Opportunities



How does this help?

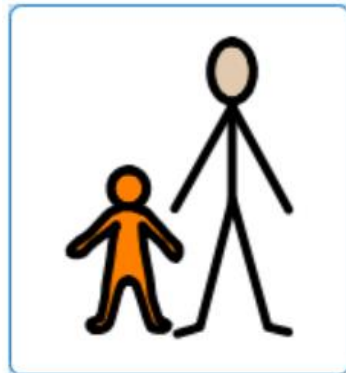
- Gives children a reason to communicate
- Space to practice talking and communication skills

Try not to...

- Talk *for* a child
- Tell them they have made a mistake
- Guess or assume what they want and give it to them, as this takes away their opportunity to communicate with you.

Create an obstacle:

- Keep items out of reach so the child has to ask or come to you
- Dance to their favourite song and pause it to see if they look at you.
- 'Sabotage' daily routines e.g., hide the toothpaste!
- Make "mistakes" for them to comment on, e.g., give them the wrong shoes



Give space:

- Watch and copy what they do
 - Wait to see if they come to you for something
 - Wait for them to offer you a part in the activity
- Sometimes children need 10 seconds to process something said to them!*

Use the child's favourite things, e.g.

- Play a game together and make comments e.g., "Wow, big tower!"
- Read a book together and comment on the pictures

Use your words (at their level):

- Talk about what they are doing e.g., "Oh, James is drawing!"
- Name things around them e.g., "Blue pen", "Lots of circles"
- Give choices e.g., "Red or blue pen?"
- Give praise e.g., "Good asking", "I see you looking at me"