

Communication and Language Top Tips: Tune into your child

Notice the things that your child is most interested in. They may show you things by looking at an object, pointing to it, picking it up or using words and vocalising.

Use their interest to guide you about what to focus on and talk about.



Doing this helps develop joint attention. This is when you pay attention to the same thing at the same time.

Communicating through gesture



- Well before your child says their first words, your baby is already trying to communicate with you. Watch the video to find out more.

Scan QR code or click the link to see the video:
[How your baby communicates through gestures](#)

Talk about toys



- As your child plays, name the toy and its parts, e.g., “teddy’s eyes”
- Describe the things they do.
- They’ll love the shared attention, releasing happy hormones and keeping their focus on you.

Scan QR code or click the link to see the video:
[Noticing your child's favourite toys and interests](#)

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Did you know...

- Only 7% of communication is based on the words we say.
- 38% is based on tone of voice, pauses, pitch, etc.
- 55% of communication is non-verbal, like our facial expressions, body language or social distance.

It is important that you pay attention

Be a detective. Really pay attention to what your child is doing. Are they looking at a particular object more than others? Or maybe they are using a specific sound or gesture every time they pick up a certain object. Do they smile every time you do a specific action? This is your child showing you that they are interested in something.

Play games



- Encourage baby to point at different items or let them guide your finger and see what interests them. Name the object they look at.
- Name toy parts e.g., eyes/eyes.

Scan QR code or click the link to see the video:
[Point and name game](#)

Find out more...



- 'Joint attention' simply means taking notice of the little things your child is interested in and paying attention to those things as you talk to them.

Scan QR code or click the link to see the video:
[Joint attention, speech and language, activities for babies](#)

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