

## Communication and Language Top Tips: **Follow your child's lead**

Following your child's lead means showing an interest in what your child is playing with and what they are communicating to you.



Doing this lets your child know that you are interested and you are listening to them.

## Follow their lead



- When your child is interested in an object, action, or sound, take notice and chat about it.
- Name the thing they're interested in and add detail.

Scan QR code or click the link to see the video:  
[What's joint attention and why is it good for baby's learning?](#)

## Watch, wait, and listen



- What captures your child's interests? Watch... don't talk.
- Name what they look at, point to, play with or hold.
- Listen carefully to how your child is communicating.

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### Did you know...

Following your child's lead helps to develop social interaction skills such as, turn-taking and joint attention.

You may find your child is able to maintain interest in activities they have chosen for a longer period because they are taking the lead. Continue to do this, as this will help to develop their attention skills.

Being face to face and imitating your child's communication will encourage your child to listen to the sounds and words that you are using. This will develop your child's listening skills.

Following your child's lead helps to develop problem solving, play skills, imagination and self-confidence.

### Follow their lead on a walk



- Spot ways your child shows they are interested in something.
- Talk to them about what has their attention. If they're interested in a tree, you could say, "Yes, a tree. *The tree has lots of leaves*".

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[Turn walking into a learning experience](#)

### Find out more...



- Watch the Follow or Lead Investigation

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