

Communication Temptations

Communication Temptations are activities that encourage your child to communicate.

Here are some creative ways to “tempt” your child to communicate:

Place Favourite Things Strategically (within view or out of reach)

- When your child sees something but cannot get it, you can tempt your child to communicate (e.g. to ask for help, to tell you to get something)
 - Put favourite toys on top shelf where child can see it but cannot reach
 - Use plastic containers with toys inside
 - Use Tupperware containers with food inside

People Toys

- These are hard for children to operate on their own, so your child will need your help to work them
 - Activate a wind-up toy, let it deactivate, and wait
 - Open a jar of bubbles, blow the bubbles, then close the jar tightly and wait
 - Blow up a balloon and slowly deflate it and wait
 - Hold the deflated balloon to your mouth and wait

Social Games

- These are games and activities with no toys – you are your child’s toy
 - Tickle your child and stop. Hold your hands over your child, like you are just about to tickle them, and wait
 - Throw your child up in the air and stop. Hold your child and wait
 - Initiate a familiar or new song, and then stop just before your child’s favourite part

Bit-by-Bit

- By giving your child a little bit of snack or a game, you can tempt your child to communicate to take turns or to ask you for more
 - Pour just a little bit of juice in your child’s cup
 - Give one piece of puzzle at a time
 - Use smaller cookies at snack so your child only gets one at a time, or break up larger cookies and give only one piece at a time

Giving All, but One

- By giving your child everything but the most important instrument, you tempt your child to communicate to ask you for what they need
 - Giving your child a piece of paper but no crayons
 - Giving the puzzle but not all the pieces
 - Giving your child a bottle of bubbles but holding on to the wand

Adapted from: Michealene, M., Ostrosky, A., Kairer, C., 1991; Wetherby & Prutting, 1984; Wetherby & Prizant, 1989