

## How to Tempt your Child to Start Talking using "Communication Temptation"

- ❑ Show then wait
  - Give your child a toy that he doesn't know how to use and wait.
  - Put a desired food or toy out of your child's reach and wait.
  - Put a desired food or toy in a clear container that your child cannot open. Put the container where your child can see it and wait.
- ❑ Creative Silliness
  - Forget to give your child an item he needs (e.g., a spoon, one piece of a puzzle, a sock).
  - Put your child's shoes on the wrong feet and wait for a reaction.
  - Pretend you don't know where something is that your child can see.
- ❑ Bit by Bit
  - Break up snack foods into small pieces (e.g., cookies, crackers, raisins, etc.). Only give your child a few pieces. Wait for him to ask for more.
  - Instead of serving a full glass of juice, water, milk, etc., just give a bit and wait.
  - Be the "keeper of the pieces" of a toy and wait for your child to ask for the piece (e.g., puzzle, shape sorters, blocks, etc.)
- ❑ Hard to Operate
  - Activate a wind-up toy for your child and let it run. When it stops, don't do anything.
  - Blow up a balloon and slowly deflate it. Hand the deflated balloon to your child or hold it yourself and wait.
  - Spin a top and leave it on the table when it stop and wait.
  - Open a jar of bubbles, blow some bubbles, then close the container tightly and wait.
  - Put your child in a swing, stroller, etc. and wait for him to send you a message.
- ❑ Interrupt the Activity (you must get the activity going first)
  - Roll a ball to your child. After he returns the ball a few times, hold the ball and wait.
  - Initiate a familiar people game (e.g., horsey ride, chase, etc.). After a few turns, stop the game and wait.
  - Do a puzzle together. After your child has put in a few pieces, offer him a piece that does not fit and wait.
  - Imitate your child's actions during play (e.g., pushing a car, pouring tea, etc.). After doing this a few times, stop imitating and wait.
  - Push your child on the swing a few times. Stop pushing and wait.

Reference: "Set Up the Situation and Create Opportunities for Your Child to Send Messages" Adapted with permission from: Wetherby, A. and Prizant, B. 1989. "The Expression of Communicative Intent" Assessment Issues. Seminars in Speech and Language, 10: 77-91; "Helping your Child Make Requests" - Toronto Preschool Speech and Language Services - North Quadrant