



COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR CHILD

Suggested strategies which will help to facilitate communication with your young child:

- Keep background noise or other distractions to a minimum when talking to your child
- Sit beside them
- Use their name first and gain their full attention before speaking to them
- Speak slowly and clearly
- Use short sentences
- Leave plenty of silence after you have said a sentence. This will give them a chance to process (i.e. make sense of) what you have said
- Wait 5 to 10 seconds for them to respond (count this in your head if it helps)
- Use simple words
- Use gesture/pointing to accompany your message where appropriate
- Use comments as well as questions
- If they do not seem to understand, repeat what you have said
- If they still do not seem to understand, rephrase what you have said (i.e. use different, simpler words)
- When they have difficulty thinking of a word, you can help them by allowing them time to try to think of the word themselves. Alternatively, give them a choice of two words, and put the target word at the end. For example, 'Is it a toaster or a microwave?'