



### Communication Success Information Page

**First step: Social interaction skills** – the foundation for successful language development

- \*Attention – paying attention to other people, noticing what someone is saying or doing
- \*Eye contact – making eye contact for a social purpose
- \*Joint attention – shifting their eye contact to look from an object to a person to share a moment or experience
- \*Listening – listening and responding to what other people say or do
- \*Play – developing age appropriate play skills
- \*Turn taking – taking a turn during play or taking turns to communicate and listen during a conversation
- \*Communicative intent – using gestures or words to purposely send a message to another person

### **Communication Strategies**

- **Face to Face** - position yourself so you can see your child's face and s/he can see yours during play and communication.
- **Act and React** – follow child's eye gaze, wait for him/her to make the first move, listen to what your child is telling you (through expressions, gestures, sounds, or words), respond to what they are interested in, be ready to move to a new activity if needed.
- **Keep Motivation High** – use highly preferred or motivating items, change up the items often, limit access to preferred toys.
- **Create an Opportunity** – Try with motivating items: in sight but out of reach, use clear containers, limit or withhold access, play with items in novel ways.
- **Use language at your child's level** – Copy what your child says and add 1-2 words, say the words you want them to say (example: say "help me" instead of "do you want help?")
- **Comment vs. Question** – Use more comments than questions. Instead of: "is that a ball?", "what is that?", "what color is the ball?" Try "it's a ball! Wow, I see a blue ball! Let's throw the ball!"
- **Make a routine** – use the same language during your daily routines. Encourage communication during fun, repetitive games: begin the activity the same way – use the same words - plan their turn – keep the activity going.
  - Example:**
  - "Let's play bubbles!"
  - "Open!"
  - Blow the bubbles and have fun popping them
  - "Uh -oh. The bubbles are all gone!"

# FOUNDATIONAL FAMILY SERVICES



## PARENT WORKSHOP: *COMMUNICATION SUCCESS*

WAIT for your child to communicate through a look, gesture, word, or sentence.  
Repeat, repeat, repeat!

### **Tips for Practicing**

- ❖ Choose one strategy to start practicing
- ❖ Pick a good time of day for your child to practice
- ❖ Give it a try for 5 distract-free minutes
- ❖ Help yourself remember (sticky note in your practice space, reminder on your phone)
- ❖ HAVE FUN!

### **Helpful Resources:**

[www.Hanen.org](http://www.Hanen.org) - Provides parents with workshops, programs and resources for early childhood language delays, language and literacy development, and for children with autism spectrum disorder.

**More than Words Book** - A Parent's Guide to Building Interaction and Language Skills for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder or Social Communication Difficulties

[https://www.hanen.org/Shop/Products/More-Than-Words-Guidebook-\(2nd-Edition\).aspx](https://www.hanen.org/Shop/Products/More-Than-Words-Guidebook-(2nd-Edition).aspx)

**Language milestones:** Growing with Communication Handbook: [https://grandviewkids.ca/wp-content/uploads/Growing-with-Communication\\_ENGL\\_pg71v2-2.pdf](https://grandviewkids.ca/wp-content/uploads/Growing-with-Communication_ENGL_pg71v2-2.pdf)

Parents are encouraged to explore the EarlyON free programs:

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/FamilyPrograms.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/FamilyPrograms.html)

If you are interested in accessing private SLP services please explore the Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC) database of private practitioners at <http://sac-oac.ca/public/find-professional> or Ontario Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (OSLA) at [www.osla.on.ca](http://www.osla.on.ca)