

Increasing opportunities for talking

Sometimes the adult can manipulate or change the environment to create a need for the child to talk in order to get what they want. This can be used in a range of situations throughout the day.

Try this...

- ✓ Most children have favourite or preferred items, which may be food or toys. If these items are always easily available to a child, there is no need to communicate what they want. The child will not learn that they need to try to talk, sign or gesture in order to get something.
- ✓ Only add a small amount of juice or water to the child's cup, this means that they will have to give some sort of signal that they would like some more.... accept gesturing, vocalising or an attempt at a word.
- ✓ During an activity, put some of the toys slightly out of reach. This will encourage the child 'work' for what they need; they will have to ask or sign for what they want in order to continue with their game.

Try this...

- ✓ Change a familiar activity, for example when helping your child dress, try to put a sock on their hand and see how they react.
- ✓ Hide objects in unusual places for your child to find and see how they communicate this to you
- ✓ Wait when things go wrong. For example, when a spoon falls on the floor or they spill their juice wait a few moments before solving the problem and see what they do.

