

imagine if

How To Tempt Your Child To Start Talking

Using "Communication Temptation"

Tip 1 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.

Tip 2 Creative Silliness

- Forget to give your child an item he needs (i.e. a spoon, one piece of a puzzle, a sock, etc.).
- 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.

Tip 3 Bit By Bit

- Break up snack foods into small pieces (i.e. 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 (i.e. puzzle, shape sorters, blocks, etc.).

Tip 4 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 until it stops, 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.

Tip 5 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 (i.e. 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 (i.e. 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.



References:

"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.