

Watch, wait and listen

Children love it when you talk about what they are interested in. When you **Watch, Wait** and **Listen** to your child's messages, you let them take the lead in play and will keep their attention for longer.



Watch...

Watch what your child is interested in. Match what you say to what your child is looking at, playing with, holding or pointing to. This really helps encourage your child to learn new words.

Wait...

Stop talking and look at your child. Young children need more time than you might think to understand and then respond to what they have heard. It helps to count to 10 in your head before speaking again.

Listen and respond...

Listen carefully to how your child is communicating with you. Remember it's not just about words- your child may use actions, babble, smiles or sounds to communicate with you.

Try it out and see how it goes...

What did you do..

(for example: I sat on the floor with Tommy. I waited for him to choose a toy. Then I talked about what he was doing using short sentences)

How did this help your child?

(for example: Tommy played with the toy for longer because he knew I wasn't going to 'take over' the activity)