

Creating Opportunities



What are opportunities?

- This is the process of making situations for your child to need to communicate.
- Often as parents, we are prepared and able to interpret our child's every need. However, this takes away the need for our child to communicate.
- By creating opportunities you can create more need for your child to need to communicate and learn that communication is useful and enjoyable.

Activity ideas:

OWL

Observe: What is my child doing?

Wait: How does my child react?

Listen: What are they doing to communicate?



Sabotage

Choose an activity that the child **cannot do without your help** (i.e. toy in a container, wind-up toys, and then wait. Place a wanted piece of clothing somewhere where the child cannot reach it. See if the child comes to you to gain help.

Pause and wait

Complete a familiar activity, such as in a familiar song story or routine. **Pause and wait** for the child's reaction. Stop half way through singing their favourite nursery rhyme. See if the child completes the sound or indicates for you to continue.

Offer bits, not all

Offer the child **small pieces or part of an activity**, rather than all of a toy or snack, so they need to ask for 'more'. Instead of giving your child a big cup of juice, give them a little bit, then wait for your child to initiate that they would like more.



Choices

Offer a choice of two by asking 'orange or grapes'? Holding out each item, see if the child reaches or labels the one they want.



If the child reaches for both items, release and name the item you think they would prefer.

If the child persists with reaching for both, offer them one you think they would prefer and say 'First grapes and then banana'.



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