

Manchester Local Care Organisation

Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service

Advice for Parents and Carers:

Creating Communication Opportunities for your Child

Activities and strategies to try:

It is important to create communication opportunities to encourage requests and interaction.

- **Give Choices:** Show two things (like a ball and bubbles). Ask "Do you want ball?" (show ball) "Or bubbles?" (show bubbles). Let them pick. Say the name of what they pick. Make sure they look at both things first.
- **Little Bits at a Time:** When playing, give your child a few toys at a time. When they've finished playing, they have to ask or show they want more toys.
- **Do Silly Things:** Do something unexpected, like putting a banana in a cup! See if they show you that it's wrong.
- **Wait before helping:** Wait for the child to tell or show you that they need help with everyday tasks like putting their coat on. Stay near them, so they know you're there. Give them time to ask for help before you help. Waiting before helping gives the child the chance to show that they need help (e.g. bring a cup to you). Don't let your child wait for too long if they don't know how to communicate with you.

Welcome all forms of communication, speaking or non-speaking. If they point, look at you, or give you something, that's communication. Always say the word for what they want or the action.