

Talking Matters

www.talkingmatters.com.au Ph: 8255 7137

Helping your child to reach their potential



Goal: To develop initiating skills

Some children are not active communicators. That is they may respond to questions and instructions made by other people, but do not start a conversation or interaction. This limits their interactions and prevents them from getting enough practice to develop strong communication skills. Below are some ideas about how to encourage your child to initiate more communication.

Your child needs help to develop his/her ability to give other people instructions and ask them questions. Here are some activities to practice at home.

1. In everyday activities eg: dressing, bathing, eating, shopping, housework etc., encourage your child to tell you about what is happening around him/her.
2. If your child wants something, encourage him/her to look/point/or verbally ask for the thing required.
3. Change routines your child is familiar with and wait to see if they try to correct you. Then pretend you made a 'silly' mistake.
4. In favourite games or activities encourage your child to ask for the necessary items needed and to give you instructions as to what should happen next, eg:

When drawing: Give your child the paper and wait for him/her to ask for pencils.

When playing with lego or any other toy, pretend that you do not know what to do and wait for your child to give you instructions.

When making something in the kitchen together (eg: a cake, pizza), anything your child is familiar doing. Once again pretend you do not know what to do, encouraging your child to give commands and ask questions.

When playing familiar games stop and wait to see if your child communicates to you that you need to 'go' or they want 'more'.

