

Creating the Need to Talk

Provide the opportunity for the child to request things by not anticipating all of their needs, by changing a familiar routine and by offering them choices.

Requesting an Object:

- During painting/drawing give them the paper but no paints/crayons
- Put a favourite toy out of their reach but still in sight. Wait for them to request the toy by looking/pointing/vocalising before giving it to them.
- Offer a choice of 2 objects, name them either e.g. juice or water and wait for a definite response from the child before giving them the chosen item.

Requesting an Action:

- Close the door to the garden/outside area so they need to ask for the door to be opened to play outside
- During physical games get the child to join in with lots of different actions e.g. kicking a ball, jumping, spinning. Then stand still and wait for them to request the next action.
- Sing action rhymes with the child and stop at an appropriate point so that they have to request continuation of the action e.g. The Wheels on the Bus, Incy Wincy Spider, Round and Round the Garden.
- Open a jar of bubbles, blow the bubbles and then stop. Wait for the child to request more/again and then blow more bubbles.
- Blow up a balloon and let it deflate slowly. Hold the deflated balloon in your mouth and wait for the child to ask you to blow it up again.

Requesting Assistance/Help:

- Blow bubbles and then close the jar tightly. Give the closed jar to the child and wait for them to ask for help opening it.
- Blow up a balloon and let it go down. Then give it to the child and wait for them to ask for help to blow it up again.



- Put the child's favourite food or toy in a clear container that they can't open whilst they are watching. Put the container in front of them and wait for a request for help

Requesting Recurrence/ More/ Again:

- Only give the child a small amount of juice or snack and wait for them to request more.
- Pause at a crucial moment in rough and tumble games e.g. chasing, tickling, swinging round and wait for the child to indicate that they want you to complete the routine.
- Activate a wind up toy or one that the child cannot do on their own, deactivate it and wait for the child to request more.

