Communication

Special Education Services

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Helping your child talk

During everyday activities

Activity: Going on a walk

If you are stuck at home and not able to walk around in town, just going outside together with your child can be a nice change.

Instructions/strategies:

- Talk about what you and your child see, hear, smell, and feel.
- Try to say 2-4 comments before asking a question.

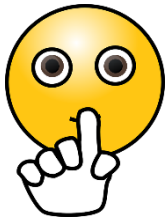
<u>If your child does not say many words yet</u>:

- Use action words. Name objects your child picks up. Pause and wait. Your child might repeat the words. No pressure, though. It's OK if he only listens.

<u>If your child often responds with one word</u>:

- Ask questions and make statements that encourage longer responses. Examples:
  - "I wonder why…"
  - "What do you think about…"
  - "What do you think will happen if…"
  - "I wonder what will happen if…"
  - "How do you feel about…"

Tip: If we **pause** and **wait**, children may communicate without help.



Wait!

Answering questions or thinking of a word can take longer than we realise.

Give your child time to respond:

1. Try a pause of 5-10 seconds.
2. Wait, and show with your face it's your child's turn to talk.
3. Some children might need several minutes.
4. Waiting can be hard. Count in your head if you need to.