

## Waiting

Waiting for your child to start the talking – with words, sounds and gestures. This is about allowing your child time to start the talking or have a turn in the conversation.

### Why is it important to wait?

Children need longer than an adult does to think of the word(s) they want to say. It helps to develop their confidence and make them feel valued. It gives the child a chance to say exactly what they want not what someone else may 'think' they want.

### What should I wait for?

Your child may start the talking by any of the following ways:

- Using a word or words
- Using a sound or some babble
- Pointing to something
- Using a gesture
- Looking at you/using facial expressions
- Tapping you or pulling you to get your attention



For further ideas check out the videos below.



### How?

**Pause and wait for the child to interact with you before you join in again.**

**Remember to look for any reaction.**

### HOW SHOULD I WAIT?

- Observe what your child is interested in before starting the conversation yourself
- Pause to allow your child time to respond to things e.g. noises or sounds like the doorbell
- Give him eye contact and look interested in what he's doing/saying
- Pause before starting a conversation