

Ready... steady... go!

Anticipation games are a great way of interacting with your little one and offer a fun and positive way of engaging with your child. They also help your child realise that their actions can have an effect on you, encouraging them to start requesting.

Once you start playing these games your child will love the repetition, and ask to play them on a regular basis.

What do I need to do?

- Help the child by pausing during **familiar routines** so they can show you they know what's next.
- Make yourself part of the process and **allow time** for the expectation.
- Lead and then **pause/wait** for the child to respond.
- Give your child enough time to respond and leave gaps in your talking so that your child can attempt some noises or words.



Remember...

- Every day routines.
- Nursery rhymes.
- Play people games like, '**peek a boo**' or **hide and seek**.
- Sing action rhymes together, such as, **Row row row your boat, Round and round the garden and this little piggy went to market.**

For further ideas check out the videos below.



Ready, steady, Go! games

www.gov.wales/talkwithme

How?

Build suspense by saying 'Ready...Steady...' and leave a gap for them to respond before saying 'GO!'

Putting it into practise

- Include your child in familiar routines, the same things you do every day. Try **adding a song** into some of these activities, your child will enjoy the repetition and get to know what comes next.
- **Ready, Steady, Go!** games – encourage your child to sit and wait for GO!
Building blocks, rolling car, bubbles.
- Action songs and stories – pause before the end of the sentence and wait.
"The wheels on the ..."

Moving forward...

When you feel you are confident with this strategy, next, try introducing some **Objects of reference**. Maybe a spoon to represent lunch time or a key to represent home time. They are a signal of what is about to happen.