

Early Interventions Speech, Language and Communication

Support Materials

**Area of concern:**

Social Communication: 0 – 11 months

This will help the child to:

Gaze at faces and copy facial movements

Activities:

- Play “peek-a-boo”.
- Make facial expressions for child to copy.
- Copy child’s own facial expressions and sounds they make.
- Use mirrors to explore features and expressions.

Adult Role:

- Devote uninterrupted time with the child when you can play with them.
- Watch and wait: when you have made a sound or facial expression, watch the child closely to see how he responds before you take another turn in the ‘conversation’. (He may respond with a sound, an expression or a movement).
- Plan time to share and reflect with parents on child’s progress.

Look, Listen and Note:

- The different ways the child responds to your facial movements.
- How attentive child is to speaker.

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This will help the child to:

Concentrate intently on faces and enjoy interaction

Activities:

- Have black and white photographs of familiar faces at child's own level, stuck on lids and hung where child can see, stuck on tubes or boxes, etc. where the child can reach.
- Get close to the child when talking to them.
- For a child that is sitting up - Face child, build a small tower, accompanying with simple descriptive words, "build it, up, up, up". Then, "ready steady go" and knock it down. Repeat.
- Hold child and look in mirrors at reflections.

Adult Role:

- Provide resources that stimulate babies' interests such as a shiny bell, a book or a mirror.
- Talk about what child can see.
- Copy any actions that child does.

Look, Listen and Note:

- How the child listens to, concentrates on or gazes intently at things that catch their interest.
- How the child copies you.

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This will help the child to:

Use their voice, gesture, eye contact and facial expression to make contact with people and keep their attention.

Activities:

Children communicate from birth. They use many different ways to communicate their wishes and interests, for example sound, gestures and facial expressions and body movements.

- Face the child, talk to him and interpret his signals, when he cries try to interpret his behaviour e.g. "Oh, you must be hungry" and link what you do with a description saying, "Let's get some milk."
- Talk about the object, person or action your child is currently attending to, this helps your child to understand that language is used for communication.
- Copy any noises that child makes, taking turns.

Adult Role:

- Respond to the child's early attempts at communicating.
- Use facial expressions gestures and touch.
- Watch and listen to the child.
- Follow the child's lead.

Look, Listen and Note:

- How the child maintains eye contact.
- How the child follows another's gazes.
- How the child develops the ability to focus on different people and objects.
- How the child copies your facial expressions.
- The sounds the child makes.