



COMMUNICATION TEMPTATIONS @ HOME



What are Communication Temptations?

Communication temptations means that we set up the environment to tempt children to communicate with us and also makes communication fun (Wetherby & Prizant, 1989).

Communication Temptations:

- Encourage spontaneous communication
- Allow the child to be the initiator of the conversation
- Motivate the child to express his/her wants and needs
- Create opportunities to communicate beyond requesting and protesting
- Take the pressure off of the children to communicate without being told to what to say by their parent/caregiver

Steps to initiate Communication Temptations:

- Eye Contact: get face to face or at their level
 - This helps to make sure the child is paying attention and ready to interact
- Waiting: it's the most powerful strategy
 - It takes times for communication to happen
 - Aim for 5-10 minutes a day of time with no distractions
 - Wait for your child to initiate (e.g., a point, gesture, or word) then follow their lead
- Respond: repeating or imitating their actions or words
 - Repeating what they say or do
 - Joining in with the action that they're doing (e.g., banging a drum, pretending to take a drink)
 - Add in a new word or gesture and see if they will imitate you

Daily Practice Ideas

Day 1: During snack or meal time offer a portion of the food... then wait.
ex: cut the apple into pieces and give it little by little.

Day 2: Choose an activity that the child can't do without your help... then wait.
ex: opening up bubbles or a wind up toy.

Day 3: Hide objects in surprising places... let your child find the surprise to create an opportunity
ex: hiding a toy in their shoe and waiting for them to find it.

Day 4: Placing a favorite object out of reach... then wait.
ex: place an object in view by out of reach.

Day 5: Pause for a familiar activity ... then wait.
ex: pause when you are doing something over and over like singing a song.

See back of page for additional information and resources!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Check out these links for more resources and activity ideas

- Check out this [useful video](#) on Communication Temptations and how you can use them at home
- The Hanen website is a great way to learn more about communication temptations and has some fun activities to do with your child. [Link for a playdough recipe and ways to use playdough at home](#)



sabotage

INTENTIONALLY CREATING A PROBLEM SO THAT YOUR CHILD HAS TO COMMUNICATE IN ORDER TO FIX IT

MEALS		• Give your child a bowl of oatmeal, but no spoon. • Give your child an empty cup. • Playfully pretend to eat your child's food. • Give your child the wrong food item instead of the one they request. • Give your child something still in a wrapper instead of opening it for them first.
PLAY		• Keep toys in a box or container they can't open. • Give your child tracks but no trains, paper but no crayons, a puzzle but no pieces, etc. • Give your child a toy they need help to operate like a wind-up toy or balloon pump, but don't offer help right away. • Put shoes on your hands to go outside. • Put on your child's hat instead of your own.
BEDTIME		• Sit your child in an empty bath with no water. • Give them the wrong pajamas instead of the ones they request. • Label a picture incorrectly while reading. Point to a tiger and say, "Look it's a bird". • "Forget" to give your child their lovey when you put them to bed.

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