

PATIENT INFORMATION

Interaction Strategy: Wait for my child to start

Speech and Language Therapy Factsheet

I wait for my child to start the interaction.

How does this strategy help?

- It encourages my child to develop his skills and confidence in starting interactions.
- It helps my child to play and communicate at her own pace.
- It helps me to follow my child's focus of attention and say the words that are important to him at the time.

What should I do?

- Give my child my **full focus of attention**.
- **Watch** my child's facial expressions, body language and what he is looking at and doing (or if necessary more subtle cues, such as his state of alertness, rate of breathing and changes in skin tone).
- **Listen** carefully to my child's sounds and words (or if necessary more subtle signals, such as her pitch volume and length of sounds).
- **Wait** for my child to start the interaction in some way (e.g. by looking at me).
- **Respond immediately** to my child's attempt to communicate.
- **Show interest** in my child's attempt to communicate.
- **Avoid jumping in** to do things for my child and instead wait for him to look for or ask for help.

Example

My child is looking inside a box of farm toys. I watch and wait to see what he does. He starts to explore the toys and I notice which ones he picks up. After a minute of silence, he looks up at me smiling and holding up a sheep. I smile back, nod and say "sheep...baa!"

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For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.
