

PATIENT INFORMATION

Interaction Strategy: Follow my child's lead

Speech and Language Therapy Factsheet

I allow my child to lead the play by following what he or she wants to do.

How does this strategy help?

- It lets my child know that I am interested.
- It helps to keep the play at my child's pace.
- It helps to keep the play at my child's level as she is choosing what she wants to do.
- It helps me to learn about my child's play and communication.
- It helps my child to have more freedom and fun during play.
- It supports my child's development of concentration skills, problem-solving skills, play skills, imagination and self-confidence.

What should I do?

- Allow my child to choose the toy and how to play with it.
- Avoid telling my child what to do.
- Follow my child's focus of attention – watch what she is looking at and doing.
- Join in with my child's play by copying, and sometimes also by adding a play action to her idea to show her a new idea.

Examples

- When my child stops building a tower of bricks and moves over to a train track, I stop playing with the bricks too and follow her to the train track.
- When my child starts banging puzzle pieces together, I join in and copy him instead of telling him to finish the puzzle.

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