

## PATIENT INFORMATION

# Interaction Strategy: Comments not questions

## Speech and Language Therapy Factsheet

I avoid asking my child questions during play and I make comments instead.

### How does this strategy help?

- It allows my child to choose what he wants to communicate about, and express himself in his own way.
- It helps my child to concentrate on what she is doing rather than on answering a question.
- It helps to keep the interaction going.
- It lets my child know that I am interested, which encourages him to make more attempts to communicate.
- It shows my child how to talk about what she is doing.

### What should I do?

- Follow my child's focus of attention – watch she is looking at and doing.
- Say a word or a few words that are important to my child at the time to comment on something that he is looking at or doing.
- Avoid asking questions during play, such as “what...?”, “where...?”, “how many...?”

### Examples

- When my child holds up a book and looks at me, I say “book.”
- When my child pushes a tractor and says “tractor”, I say “pushing the tractor.”
- When my child rolls playdough with a rolling pin and smiles, I say “rolling”.

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