

## PATIENT INFORMATION

# Interaction Strategy: Add Visual Clues

## Speech and Language Therapy Factsheet

I use visual cues when I talk with my child (e.g. objects, pointing, gestures, signs, photos/pictures).

### How does this strategy help?

- It helps my child to listen to and understand what I am saying, as I am adding something for him to see at the same time.
- It shows my child another way of expressing herself if she cannot yet say the words.

### What should I do?

Talk to my child's Speech and Language Therapist about the best visual cues to use for my child's stage of development.

Use a visual cue at the same time as I say important words:

- Hold up or use an **object** to show what I am talking about.
- **Point** to what I am talking about.
- Use a **gesture** (move my body and hands) to show what I am talking about.
- Use a **Makaton sign** to show what I am talking about.

Always **say the word/s at the same time** as using a visual cue.

### Examples:

- When it's time for my child to have a bath, I **give him his bath toy** and say "bath time."
- When my child looks at me and points to the fruit bowl, I take out an apple and a banana and say "apple or banana?" as I **hold each one up**.
- When my child points to a cat in the garden and looks at me, I **use the Makaton sign** for cat at the same time as saying "there's a...cat!"
- When it's time to go to Nanny's, I **show my child a photo** of Nanny and say "going to...Nanny's."

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