

How to encourage your child to communicate with you in play

1. Play Ready Steady..... Go! Games

Remember to;

- Choose a game that they enjoy
- Change your tone of voice to engage their interest
- Get right down to their level to encourage eye contact
- Say ready, steady... and leave a long pause. Wait for any sign they want you to 'go' this could be a glance, reach, point or a sound.
- Say 'go' and release the toy.
- Repeat repeat repeat!
- Ideas for games include; rolling a ball, blowing up and releasing a balloon, push and go cars and ball/car runs.

2. Lap games

Use games of tickles, chase and nursery rhymes to encourage communication.

- Play your game as usual but then obviously pause...
- Look at them expectantly and wait for a sign they want you to continue.

- Say 'more?' and start the game again.
- Songs to try include *row your boat, round and round the garden, zoom zoom were going to the moon!* (*have a look on 'youtube' if these are not familiar*)

3. Bubbles

- Blow bubbles for your child
- Stop, look at them and hold the pot out of reach.
- Wait for them to request the bubbles by reaching, vocalising or moving towards you.
- Say 'more?' and blow some more bubbles.

Don't forget;

Keep your language very simple. 1-2 words eg 'pop' or 'gone'
If they lose interest, move on to something else.

Keep an eye on what motivates your child and try to include some of the ideas into play with these toys or activities

Have fun!