

## *Creating Opportunities for Communication*

Below are some ideas to create and promote opportunities for communication “**communicative temptations**”. We need to create a reason for children to communicate, for example that they would like ‘more’ of something.

Below are some ideas for you to try at home/nursery:

- Try eating a desired food item in front of the child without offering any to him – they will need to communicate with you to tell you they want some!
- Activate a wind up toy, let it go and hand it to the child. They need to communicate with you to ask you to set it off again
- Look through a few books together
- Start a familiar game, e.g. tickles. Stop the game and wait for them to tell you in some way that they would like more.
- Place a favourite food item or toy in a clear container that the child cannot open, or put it on a high shelf. Wait for the child to communicate with you that they would like the toy.
- Try messy play together, exploring sensory substances such as dried pasta, water, or sticky substances such as jelly or custard.
- Join in with your child putting together a puzzle, handing him/her the pieces.
- Ready Steady Go games – pause on ‘go’ until they show you they want it to start.
- Give him/her materials for a favourite activity, but don’t give them all of them. E.g. if they like bubbles give them the wand but not the pot. They then have to ask you in some way for the materials to complete the activity.

Children could request using a range of different things e.g. eye contact, gesture and vocalisations.