

Interacting with your child



Your child communicates in many ways, not just with words. Before your child starts to talk, it's important to recognise the other ways they might be trying to get their message across.

These may include:



Follow your child's lead:

- Make sure you don't just focus on words. Don't get upset if your child isn't saying much yet. They might be using lots of gestures, or babbling.
- If you are trying to talk about their snack but they want to talk about a toy, talk to them about the toy.
- Try to follow the below steps to give your child the best chance of getting their message across - with or without words:

Watch	what your child is doing.
Wait	for them to start the interaction
Listen	to what they are saying (or doing!)
Take	turns with your child

Information obtained from: Hanen Early Language Program, 2013.



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