

# Gaining a Child's Attention

## How to gain a child's attention.

- Go to where the child is playing and sit/stand next to them.
- If possible wait for an interval in the child's play.
- Get down to the child's eye level.
- Use his/her name first so the child knows you are talking to him/her or tap lightly on their shoulder.
- If it is difficult to gain the child's attention use an object which makes a usual noise. The stranger the noise the better or blow on their cheek gently.
- Talk very clearly.
- Use simple sentences and language with gestures or Makaton.
- Give the child time to respond.
- A useful tip for the adult is to sing a short nursery rhyme to yourself before you talk again.
- If the sentence needs to be repeated, use the same words and order. If there are any changes the child will have to start the process of listening, understanding and responding from the beginning again.



**Links to EYFS:** Communication and Language: Personal, Social, Emotional Development.

**SEND Code of Practice:** Communication and Interaction: Social, Emotional, Mental Health.

## Parental Section: Using strategies at home.

- At home your child can be placed on your lap facing you so s/he is looking directly at you. The same strategies should be used as above.
- Reduce the amount of background noise, so your child can really tune in to what you are saying.
- It is very important to use your child's name first and wait for them to turn and look at you.
- It is also helpful to have an object to go with the instruction/activity. This will help with your child's understand and also develop their vocabulary.