

Requesting – creating opportunities to communicate

Strategies / Interventions.

‘Requesting’ gives a child the opportunity and reason to communicate their needs throughout the day, providing frequent opportunities to practice their communication skills for something they want.

Look for objects, current interests and activities which motivate the child and use these to encourage them to encourage what they want.

Opportunities to encourage a child to request:

Offering a choice – Holding an object in each hand, saying the word of the item as you show it. Then **watch** and **wait** for the child to respond. Repeating back the name of the object chosen as you give it to them

Pausing a familiar/favourite activity (such as blowing bubbles, rolling a ball, tickling, singing a song). Then **watch** and **wait** for the child to respond. Repeating back the word more/again before continuing with the activity

Placing a desired item in sight but out of reach - Then **watch** and **wait** for the child to respond. Repeating back the name of the desired object and giving it to them

Choosing an activity they need help with (such as blowing bubbles, a wind-up toy, building a track for the trains). Then **watch** and **wait** for the child to respond. Repeating back the word more/again or object name, before continuing to help them

Offering a little bit, with more available out of reach -

Such as snack, putting only a few pieces on their plate, once finished say ‘more?’ Then **watch** and **wait** for the child to respond. Repeating back the word ‘more’ before giving one more piece.

Examples of how the child may respond:

- Looking at you
- Smiling at you
- Gestures such as pointing to the object, reaching or pulling your hand towards something
- Giving you the object
- Making a sign/ action/vocalisations
- Saying a word, even if it is not clear



Remember:

Waiting gives the child time to think and respond.

Praise gives the child a reward for attempting to communicate, along with the object they were requesting.

Modelling gives the child the important words for them

Repetition gives the child multiple opportunities to practice this new skill