

# Natural Communication

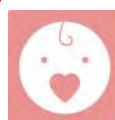
Using natural communication with your child will teach them practical and appropriate ways to communicate with others. The biggest trap you can fall into when your child isn't saying much is to ask questions. This will often make your child reluctant to speak.

Instead of asking questions:

- ◆ Use self talk
- ◆ Talk about what your child is doing
- ◆ Talk about what is happening around them
- ◆ Use facial expression and responses like "oh", "wow", "thank you" to show your child that you are watching and listening
- ◆ Talk when your child is silent and listen when they are talking to you - this is like a conversation
- ◆ Respond to non-verbal attempts at communication (e.g. when your child points, shows you something, leads you somewhere, gestures, smiles, frowns etc)

*And remember the golden rule '5 comments for every 1 question'.*

- ◆ Answer any questions that your child does not respond to (e.g. "where is the baby?" ... WAIT.... "here she is")



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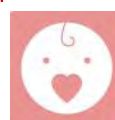
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# Natural Communication

## Key-word Signs

Using signs aids understanding by giving your child a visual cue. Remember to get your child's attention before you speak to them.

- Always say the word you are signing
- Only sign key-words
- Use signs all the time



**TO HELP** – Place dominant hand into non-dominant hand, palms together - move formation forward.



**TO WANT** – Move heel of open dominant hand down front of chest and turn to palm down.



**TO LIKE** – Move open dominant hand in small circles on chest.



**TO PLAY** – Simultaneously move both open hands, palms up, in outward circles.

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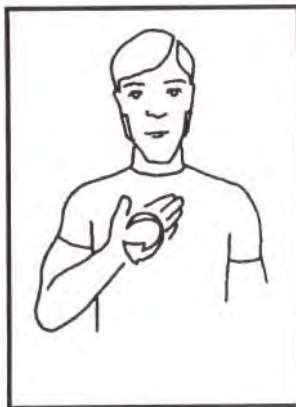
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