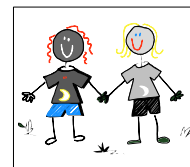


Information and advice from:



**Early Development and
Inclusion Team**
Supporting Inclusion at the
Early Years Foundation Stage

Helping your child take the lead

- Sometimes observing, waiting and listening are not enough and your child may need a little encouragement to initiate play and interactions.
- Some things to try:
 - Get down to their level. This will show that you are interested and ready to play.
 - Be face to face so that you can see each other's expressions. If eye contact is a challenge for your child then position yourself slightly to one side.
 - Use facial expression (look expectant) and body language (lean forward) to show that you are waiting for them to start.
 - Once your child starts to play, respond with interest and enthusiasm. Then pause and wait for them to respond again.
- You may need to give your child a reason to communicate.
- Some things to try:
 - Offer a choice of toy. Present two options (you can use objects or pictures) and ask, for example, 'Do you want to play with the bricks or cars?' then wait. Accept a look, a gesture, or a vocal sound as a response. Remember those non-verbal communications!
 - Introduce something in a bag or box that your child will need help opening. Wait and see if they look to you or use a gesture or sound to seek your help.
 - Place something you know your child likes out of reach. Wait and see if they seek your help.
 - Offer things bit by bit, for example, one ball/marble at a time to roll down the run. Wait! Again accept a look, gesture or vocal sound to seek more.
 - Once your child initiates an interaction respond with interest and enthusiasm. Remember to give your child praise for, 'good asking', whatever means they use.

