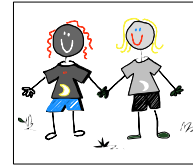


Information and advice from:



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



Making Choices

Making a choice is a very powerful form of communication – it gets the child what he wants, and it shows him that he can influence what happens by **looking**, **reaching**, **pointing**, **making a meaningful sound** or **using a word** – all of which are steps on the way to meaningful communication.

You could try...

- **Choosing between 2 toys:**
 - To begin with, hold out a favourite toy and a neutral object, like a piece of paper – encourage your child to look at, reach or point at what he wants.
 - When he can do this consistently, hold out 2 toys – encourage your child to choose.
- **Tips:**
 - *Vary which side you hold the toys to ensure your child doesn't always reach in one direction, or pick the last one you held up.*
 - *Always label what he chooses, e.g. "You want snake...snake"*
- **Choosing food:**
 - Hold out an apple and a banana, or orange juice and milk – encourage your child to choose, "Apple or banana... you choose!"
- **Tips:**
 - *Always show your child – hold the two foods in your hand or put them on the table – so they can see what the choice is.*
 - *Always label what he chooses, e.g. "Egg, you want egg", "Ooh cake, yummm".*

Think how many choices you can build into everyday!

- "Do you want your Peppa t-shirt or your dinosaur t-shirt?"
- "The green crayon or the blue crayon?"
- "The big cake or the little cake?"