

the **early years** toolkit

hope making a difference choice understanding friendly
together quality understanding dedication hope enthusiastic specialist compassion
personal community people together help care understanding specialist dedication safe local support trust dependability
equality care choice independence respect community trust together quality together
hope enthusiastic specialist compassion safe health service local dependable help equality care d

Basic communication strategies

Everyone involved in a child's life can help them to develop communication by following these basic strategies. These can be used in all activities including play and daily routines such as dressing and mealtimes.

- Listen to your child's noises and words and repeat them back to them
- Give your child time to process what you said and respond
- Let your child lead play and give them choices wherever possible
- Mirror what your child is doing – this encourages you to follow their lead rather than be too directive
- Make comments instead of asking your child too many questions
- Keep your language simple and repetitive to give your child lots of experience of important words and phrases
- Remember that communication is more than just the words. Use body language, facial expression, gestures and signs and respond when your child uses these
- Get down on your child's level and talk face to face