



I need good attention and listening before I can learn to talk.

If I find this hard, I might move quickly from toy to toy. I might not be able to listen to you when I am playing.

Top tips

- Say my name before talking to me
- Turn the TV and any music off
- Sit on the floor with me
- Try and only have 1 or 2 toys out at a time
- Watch, wait and copy what I am doing

Watch [this video](#) for more tips.



Click the link or
scan the QR code
for the video.



**...giving children
the best start**

Attention

What is attention and why is it important?

- Attention is learning to concentrate on one or more thing
- I need good attention to learn to talk

How to help attention and listening

Videos with useful activities:

[Ready, steady, go](#)

[Using balloons](#)



Ready, steady, go

Try these at home:

- Play musical statues
- See what you and I can hear while we are out walking
- Hide objects in a bag. Take turns to take something out and tell me what it is
- Messy play – painting, playdough, sand, etc. Copy what I am doing
- Sensory play – explore different smells, sounds, textures with me
- Let me join in with bathing, getting dressed, helping with housework. Tell me what you are doing

Intensive interaction

What is intensive interaction and why is it important?

- Intensive interaction is a way of helping me to learn that interacting with adults can be fun

How to do 'intensive interaction'

- Copy all my movements, sounds, gestures and faces, even if they are accidental (e.g. sighing, yawning)
- Try to do exactly the same as me, e.g. if I am being loud, try to be loud as well
- Do not copy inappropriate behaviours (e.g. biting, licking, hitting, etc)

Watch this video for an example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkJKktBaTRY>

For more information please visit <http://www.intensiveinteraction.org/>



Intensive
Interaction Video



Intensive Interaction
Website

Taking turns

What is 'taking turns' and why is it important?

- Taking turns is an important part of playing, sharing and conversations
- Some children find it hard to take turns

How to help me to take turns

- It is easier for me to take turns with one adult than with another child
- Sit facing me
- Say (your name's) turn....(my name's) turn, e.g. daddy's turn.... Bobby's turn
- If taking turns is very hard for me, let me have 2 turns in a row

Try these at home

- Copy the noises and faces I make
- Throw or roll a ball to each other
- Send wind-up toys to each other
- Roll cars towards each other
- Take turns to post a shape in the box
- Take turns to lift up the flaps in a book
- Building towers with bricks
- Take turns in peek-a-boo games





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Gestures and pointing

Why are gestures and pointing important?

- Children use gestures and pointing to communicate before they can talk
- Some children do not understand that they can use gestures and pointing to tell you something
- They may not wave 'goodbye' or point to things they want

How to help me to use gestures and pointing

- Put a favourite object out of reach or in a clear plastic box. Make sure I am looking. Point to the object and then give it to me
- Show me that we can wave 'goodbye' or 'hello' during songs. Watch [this video](#) for a song to sing
- Share a book and point to interesting pictures



Hello/Goodbye
Song Video