

Using toys to encourage communication

Your child's favourite toy can help them to communicate in many ways:

- Learn new words by talking about the toy
- You can label the names of pieces or objects and use fun action words like 'up', 'in' or 'zoom'
- Make choices. For example: Do you want the car or the motorcycle? Should I put the sheep under or on top?
- Take turns. Turn taking is essential for playing with others successfully and for having a good conversation
- Remember to make lots of comments, limit your questions and leave lots of time for your child to talk as well

Playing with your child creates a positive connection- it lets them know that you are interested in them and notice what they enjoy.