

Communication and Language Top Tips

Tune into your child

Notice the things that your child is most interested in. They may show you things by looking at an object, pointing to it, picking it up or using words and vocalising.

Use their interest to guide you about what to focus on and talk about.



Doing this helps develop joint attention.

Joint attention is when you pay attention to the same thing at the same time.



Communicating through gesture



- Well before they say their first words, babies are already trying to communicate with you.
- Watch the video to find out more.

Scan the QR code or click the link to see the video: [How your baby communicates through gestures - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

Talk about toys



- As your child plays, name the toy and its parts, e.g., “*teddy's eyes*”
- Describe the things they're doing.
- They'll love the shared attention, releasing happy hormones and keeping their focus on you.

Scan the QR code or click the link to see the video: [Noticing your child's favourite toys and interests - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

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Did you know...

- Only 7% of communication is based on the words we say.
- 38% is based on tone of voice, pauses, pitch, etc.
- 55% of communication is non-verbal, like our facial expressions, body language or social distance.

It is important that you pay attention

Be a detective. Really pay attention to what your child is doing. Are they looking at a particular object more than others? Or maybe they are using a specific sound or gesture every time they pick up a certain object. Do they smile every time you do a specific action? This is your child showing you that they are interested in something.

Point and name game



- Encourage your baby to point at different items or let them guide your finger and see what interests them. Name the object they are looking at.
- You can name different parts of a toy, such as its eyes and ears.

Scan the QR code or click the link to see the video: [Point and name game - Tiny Happy People](#)

Find out more...



- 'Joint attention' simply means taking notice of all the little things your child is interested in and paying attention to the same things as you talk to them.

Scan the QR code or click the link to see the video: [Joint attention, speech and language, activities for babies - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

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