

Communication and Language Top Tips

Follow Your Child's Lead

Following your child's lead means showing an interest in what your child is playing with and what they are communicating to you.



Doing this, lets your child know that you are interested and listening to them.

Follow their lead



- When your child is noticeably interested in a particular thing, (object, action, sound) take notice and chat to them about it.
- Name the thing they're interested in and add detail.

Scan the QR code or click the link to see the video: [What's joint attention and why is it good for baby's learning? BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

Watch, wait, and listen



- Watch what your child's interested in. Match what you say to what they look at, play with, hold or point to.
- Stop talking, look at your child.
- Listen carefully to how your child is communicating.

Scan the QR code or click the link to see the video: [Watch, Wait, and Listen \(youtube.com\)](#)

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Did you know...

Following your child's lead helps to develop social interaction skills such as, turn-taking and joint attention.

You may find your child is able to maintain interest in activities they have chosen for a longer period because they are taking the lead. Continue to do this, as this will help to develop their attention skills.

Being face to face and imitating your child's communication will encourage your child to listen to the sounds and words that you are using. This will develop your child's listening skills.

Following your child's lead helps to develop problem solving, play skills, imagination and self-confidence.

Follow their lead on a walk



- Spot the ways your child shows they are interested in something.
- Talk to them about what has their attention. If they're interested in a tree, you could say, "Yes, a tree. *The tree has lots of leaves*".

Scan the QR code or click the link to see the video: [Turn a walk into a learning experience for your child BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

Find out more...



- Watch the Follow or Lead Investigation

Scan the QR code or click the link to see the video: [Best way to play with 12 to 18 month old - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

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