

Give a reason to COMMUNICATE AND WAIT

These strategies remove the ability to only answer “yes” or “no” and encourages a child to use the specific name of the object.

The strategies also provide a chance for a child to comment or react.

Offer desired objects bit by bit ...

- This strategy works well at snack time: pour only a little juice or milk into your child’s cup, so that they have to ask you for more several times during snack time
- Be the “keeper” of all of the pieces: when playing with toys that have multiple pieces (e.g., puzzle, blocks, etc.), keep all of the pieces in a bag or container, encouraging your child to request one piece during each turn

Offer a choice...

- Show and name each choice item while asking, e.g. “Do you want car or block?”
- Wait for your child to “tell” you what they want, (e.g., by looking, reaching, pointing, vocalizing, or using words)
- Give only the object that was asked for
- Label the item as you hand it to your child (e.g., “Block, you want the block.”)

Create a silly or unusual situation...

- Do something your child would not expect and wait for a reaction. Examples of silly situations:
 - put your child’s pajama pants on their head
 - put both of your child’s socks on the same foot
 - start happily bathing your child in a bathtub that has no water in it
 - start to pour your child’s juice but “forget” the cup



How to connect with support:

Anyone with a concern about their child's development can contact SmartStart Hub at Lansdowne Children’s Centre to start the referral process and seek support.

No diagnosis or doctor referral is required. There is NO COST to the family for accessing SmartStart Hub services, supports and resources.

Visit www.lansdownecentre.ca/speech

Call toll free 1-800-454-7186 ext. 507