

Learning language in everyday life



Face-to-face

When interacting with your child, it is important to **get on the same level** (face-to-face) rather than sitting behind or standing above your child.



This encourages **eye contact** and allows you to see and hear each other better, encouraging interactions.

Watch: Watch your child and **find out what they are interested in**. Look at the items that they are playing with or looking at.



Wait: Say nothing and wait expectantly. Look at your child and show them you are waiting using your body (facing towards them, leaning in). **Give them a chance to say something** (wait about 10 seconds before saying anything if you can).



Listen: To what your child is saying to you. They may say something out loud, use a gesture e.g. pointing or show an object. **Respond with interest and enthusiasm.**



Watch, Wait, Listen

Give your child the **space to communicate** with you about their interests.



Information and strategies provided are based on Hanen Programs® for Parents. For more information on how you can support your child's communication please visit the Hanen Centre <https://www.hanen.org>.

Using these strategies

You can use this strategy with your child in any activity at any time of the day. Many parents find it an easy strategy to **try at play time, bath time, dressing or meal times.**

When will you try it?