

Early communication games for

Looking and Listening

**The following pack has games and activities to help with children’s communication.**

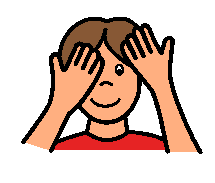
**They are good to use with children who are not talking yet.**

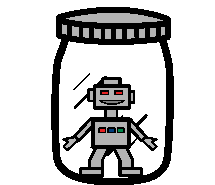
**Pick one game each week to practise.**

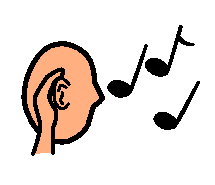
**Turn off the TV and other distractions.**

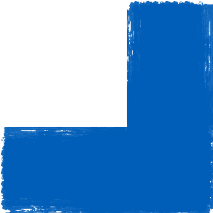
**Follow your child’s interests in the activity, model sounds, turn taking and other aims of the activities.**

**If you are seeing a speech and language therapist they may have picked out some games for you to try.**





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Feely Bag

**Aim:** to develop attention

**you will need:** a bag with some interesting objects/toys inside

**how to play:**

* sit opposite the child at their level
* hold the bag in front of the child
* shake it as you sing or say, ‘what’s in the bag, what’s in the bag, let us have a look, what’s in the bag’
* open the bag a little and help the child to take something out
* put the bag behind your back as this gives the child time to play with it
* bring the bag back and start again for the next choice

**helpful hints:**

* try using objects/ toys that will catch the child’s interest
* use things with different shapes, textures, colours and items that make sounds, have lights, vibrate etc

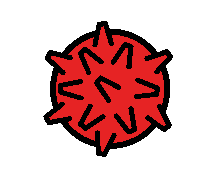
**Children’s speech and language therapy**

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**Follow the ball**



**Aim:** to develop attention

**you will need:** ball or another object of interest

**how to play:**

* sit opposite the child at their level
* catch the child’s attention with the ball and then slowly move it above your head
* move it from left to right slowly for the child to follow with their eyes
* then, move it down towards the child for them to play with
* do this again and again

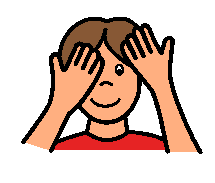
**helpful hints:**

if this is hard for your child:

* shake the ball as you move it to hold the child’s attention
* use other objects that have lights or make sounds to help the child to keep their attention
* get the child to follow the ball for longer before you give it to them

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**Hiding game**



**Aim:** to develop eye contact

**you will need:** some pieces of material or a cushion or a towel

**how to play:**

* sit opposite the child at their level
* hold the material in front of your face and then drop it down to

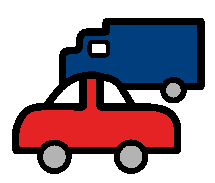
say ‘hello’

* hold the material up for longer
* give the child a turn by helping them hold the material up in front of their face
* as they drop it down say ‘hello’

**helpful hints:**

you can try using material with different colours, patterns or textures

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**Roll the car**

**Aim:** to develop eye contact

**you will need:** a toy car

**how to play:**

* sit opposite the child, at their level
* hold the car up near your face and wait for the child to look at you
* when they look at you say ‘ready, steady, go’ and roll the car to the child as you say ‘go’
* if the child looks away before you say ‘go’, stop talking and wait for

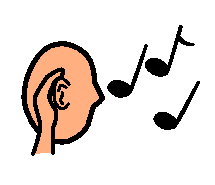
them to look back at you before carrying on

* give the child some time to play with the car before you take it back and start again

**helpful hints:**

* you might need to shake the car to help the child to keep looking at you
* get the child to wait longer before you say ‘ go’

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**Musical bumps**

**Aim:** to develop listening

**you will need:** music that can be stopped and started

**how to play:**

* stand with the child
* start the music and get the child to move around
* stop the music and get the child to stop and sit down
* help them to stay sitting until the music starts again
* do this again and again

**helpful hint:**

if getting up and down is difficult for the child, you can help them to stay still instead of sitting down

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