



# Early communication games for

## Looking and Listening

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

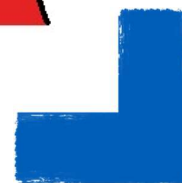
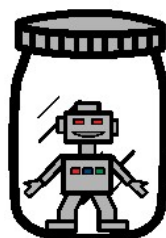
They are good to use with children who are not talking yet.

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.



## 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

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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

## 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'

## 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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With **all of us** in mind.