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Title: **Communication Hints**

There are so many ways to stimulate speech, language, and communication skills during your daily routines! In fact, this is often the very best way to help your child understand express language, whether that be verbal or through means such as gestures, facial expression, movement, tactile/object cues, or a formal AAC system.

Here are some basic ways to encourage understanding as you go about your day throughout these unusual times:

~ **Know that face-to-face time is essential.** This is generally the way we communicate with other people—we often move to face the person we are communicating with. Face-to-face time provides the best sound. Your voice will sound different to your child if you consistently speak from behind or to the side of your child. Also, face-to-face time allows you to watch your child’s expression and other cues!

~ **Narrate about your day.** Children learn to understand language by hearing it over and over throughout their day. Describe what is going on as you go about daily routines such as cooking, bath time, getting dressed, and playing.

~ **Use specific vocabulary.** Try to use specific nouns and descriptors that will help your child learn vocabulary and know which items you are talking about. For example, use words like, “Get the soft blue pillow” rather than “Get that one”.

~ **Try to use your child’s name.** Children like to hear their name! It is a nice way to assure attention to say your child’s name, wait for their attention, and then to continue with your direction or comment. This is especially helpful in busy, noisy, or group situations at home.

Have fun talking, singing, and otherwise using language with your child in any way at home!