



Stop, Wait & Listen



When a child attempts to interact/talk to you, if possible, STOP what you are doing, WAIT and LISTEN to what they are saying!

This may sound like obvious advice, but in practice it is difficult to achieve 100% of the time.

STOPPING: shows the child that you are interested in and value what they have to say. Stopping should involve gaining eye contact with the child and moving to their level, e.g. if they are sitting on the floor, crouch down to demonstrate that they have your full attention.



WAITING: while a child is working out what they are trying to say, adults can often fill the spaces with questions and lots of language. Give the child time to respond and take their turn in conversations or interactions.



LISTENING: listen carefully to what the child is attempting to say. A child with speech and language difficulties may be difficult to understand and require your 100% attention in conversations/interactions. If you find the child too difficult to understand, ask them to show you to help you understand.

