

Creating surprises for your child

Why should I do it?

You are an expert in guessing what your child needs and wants. Instead of guessing, you can give your child more reasons to communicate. Create more opportunities for communication by putting obstacles in the way of things your child wants. Use 'creative surprises' with everyday routines. This can be a fun way for your child to 'fix' what's gone wrong.

How do I do it?

Keep things fun! Try the ideas below. Show your child you are confused. Pause to see if your child shows you something is wrong. Fix the error with your child's help and praise them for helping you.

Do something silly at breakfast.
For example, put toast in a cup or cereal in a saucepan.

Put desired things where your child can see but not reach them.

Put clothes on in the wrong order.
For example, put shoes on first, then socks on the shoes.

It's okay to ask for help!

Use one of your child's favourite toys and pretend you don't know what to do with it. Look confused and ask your child to "help".

Put building blocks on your head.

Stack toy cars on top of each other.

Blow into the wrong side of a trumpet or recorder.

It's okay for your child to ask for help!

Use toys that are hard to operate, show your child that you can do it, then, when your child wants more, leave the toy for them to operate. Offer "daddy/mummy help?" Then operate the toy for your child. Try:

Bubbles with a tightly closed lid e.g. your child will bring you the bubbles to open when they need help.

Wind-up toys e.g. your child will have difficulty winding the toy up independently so will request for help.

Toys with hidden buttons or stiff levers.