

Pausing – Why pausing works!



How do I do it?

1. When you have said something to your child, or are holding a toy and waiting to play, pause in anticipation to give your child time to listen, understand what was asked, and to respond.
2. Show them you are waiting by looking expectantly for a reply.
3. If your child does not reply, you can say the words that match the activity.

Why should I do it?

When you pause during conversation or in play, you are setting up communication opportunities for your child to respond. Sometimes this can be a hard task as we often feel we need to keep the pace of conversations and interactions going.

Our little ones need more time to process what we are saying. Pausing gives them that extra time to comprehend and then expand on the conversation, in their own way.

IDEAS!

Balls



Before rolling/bouncing/kicking the ball, rock it back and forth a little and wait (by having an excited look on your face). Your child is likely to communicate in some way that they want you to roll/bounce/kick the ball; they might use eye contact, move a little closer, or use a sound or word. Once your child has shown you that they want you to continue the game, you can model the words that your child needs e.g. “roll”, “go”, “ball”.

Bubbles



Before blowing the bubbles, hold the wand up to your mouth and wait... your child is likely to communicate in some way that they want you to blow the bubbles. Once they have shown that they want you to blow the bubbles, you can say the words that your child needs, such as “blow”, “go”, “bubbles” etc. If you have said “ready, steady”, you can pause...before you say “go!” to see if your child might say it.

Songs/

Rhymes



When your child is familiar with singing the nursery rhymes, try pausing before the key words/fun part; your child may fill in the gap. For example, “twinkle twinkle little ...”. If your child does not fill in the word, model the word/s for your child at that exciting time.

When you have finished singing the nursery rhymes, wait for your child to request that you sing again.