

## Teaching my child to communicate

...but my child doesn't talk, why should I talk to her?

### COMMUNICATION IS A TWO-WAY PROCESS

Communication skills can be developed by widening the child's world with many different types of sounds, and by communicating with them in a variety of ways:

- Blowing through a straw on them, tinkling a bell, scratching a drum etc
- Blow bubbles and see if the child can blow them
- Voice sound – make sounds to the child –

**maaa – baaa etc....** make this a sound game and encourage imitation.

Move your lips and hum and buzz; make different rhythms with the child's and your name, sing rhymes and songs in the child's language, and make animal sounds.



- Read stories (even if they are not understood) to encourage the rhythm of language.

- Talk while you are doing activities

around the house – tell the child about what you are doing and invite their response; e.g. 'what t-shirt do you want to wear today? Etc...' (Try to bring the child into the busy world, do not allow him/her to remain quiet and isolated)

- Play games with activities that involve talking, like pretending to talk on the phone.



**REMEMBER ALWAYS FACE YOUR CHILD WHEN YOU ARE COMMUNICATING WITH HIM/HER:**

**Make sure your face is in the light.**

**Make your face is very expressive when you communicate.**

A child with a disability may develop the ability to make meaningful sounds and speech much later than other children – but this does not mean you do not communicate. So as they get older:

- ENCOURAGE the child to 'eye-point' (look at what they want)
- Point to things with their hand.
- Use pictures to tell what they want (make a communication board) with pictures of liked or wanted things; e.g...A drink, food, favourite games, toilet, people in the family etc...

