

Listen to Me

Primary Objectives

10a. Engages in conversations

Why It's Important

Give your child your undivided attention when he makes attempts to communicate with sounds. This encourages him to make sounds and helps him develop an early understanding of language.

Materials

None

What You Do

1. Watch for your child's cues that he is attentive and interested in engaging with you.
2. Give your child a big smile and say something to him so he knows that you are engaging with him. *I see you looking at me. Do you have something to tell me?*
3. Give him time to respond with a coo or an utterance. Respond to his attempt to communicate by smiling and repeating his coo. *Goo, goo. Are you telling me a story? Let's hear it again. Goo, goo.*
4. Talking in between your child's utterances will keep him engaged and interested in communicating with you.
5. React each time your child makes a sound in your direction. If you hear him coo, stop and respond. *I hear you talking. Can you coo again?*
6. Allow time for his response and repeat his sounds. *Dah. Dah. Are you trying to say dada? You are saying it! Let's say it again. Dah. Dah.*