



Why do we communicate?

Children and babies learn to communicate when they have a need and reason to do so. Adults should respond to babies and children when they communicate no matter how the child does this.

Ways children communicate:

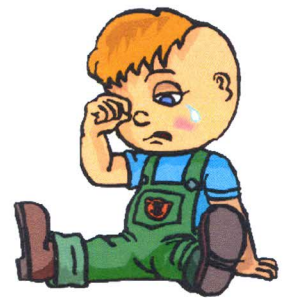
Crying

Gesture e.g. pointing reaching

Making sounds e.g. "uh" when pointing to what they want

Touch e.g. tapping

Objects e.g. pointing to or fetching a cup when they want a drink



Reasons children communicate:

To ask for something

To say they don't want something

To get attention

To make something happen

To tell you something has happened

Create a need to communicate:

Children need people to respond to them

Children need time to get their message across

Children need you to listen to what they are trying to tell you

Make choices



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Sharing activities is a good time for communication

Examples:

Reason: child is thirsty

Way of communicating: points to his cup & cries

Opportunity: adult gives the child a choice: 'do you want milk or juice?'. The child responds by pointing to the juice bottle, adult models the single words "juice" "cup" "drink"

Reason: child wants you to play with his train with him

Ways of communicating: child brings train to adult and says "choo choo"

Opportunity: adult listens and repeats what the child has said, and then adds another word e.g. "train choo choo".

Other ways to help your child communicate:

Objects

Photographs

Symbols

signs



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