

Communication = Understanding + Expression

WHAT WE CAN DO?

PRENATAL (Before Birth)



Talking, reading and singing to your baby helps them to recognize your voice and sounds, right from the start.

Speak to your child in the language you are most comfortable using.



INFANTS (Birth to 17 months)

Soothe your baby and attend to their needs. Share your infant's gaze by looking at the same things and name what it is.

Look at pictures and books with your infant. **E.g., talk about what they see using short phrases.**

Copy your infant's sounds.

Use pointing and gesturing to communicate with your child.

Crying is a way in which children communicate.

TODDLERS (18-29 months)

Say more comments and ask fewer questions. **E.g., "The big red car is going fast."**

Give your toddler time to take their turn and respond with a word, a look or an action.

Build on your child's sentences by adding to them. **E.g., if your child says, "Boots", then you might say "Yellow boots".**



PRESCHOOLERS (30-48 months)

Words are more likely to become part of your child's vocabulary when they are used often in play.

Use actions or gestures to show your child the meaning of new words.

In daily conversations, use new words so that your child can hear and practice them.

FOR ALL AGES

Plan and take your child to an EarlyON Centre for other experiences.

When talking to your child face them at their eye level.

When playing with your child, follow their interest and add new words or pieces of information.

Use whatever form of communication best supports your child. **E.g., picture cards, gestures, sign language or assistive devices.**

Be mindful of non-verbal body cues. **E.g., facial expressions, pointing and posture.**

RESOURCES

BOOKS

Look at family pictures and talk about them with your child. Tell them your family stories.

Abuela by Arthur Dorros

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle (published in several languages)

The World Needs Purple People by Benjamin Hart and Kristen Bell

Baby Sign Language Made Easy by Lane Rebelo

It's A Mitig! by Bridget George

SONGS

[The Itsy Bitsy Spider](#)

[The More We Get Together](#) (ASL)

[Head Shoulders Knees and Toes](#) (French Language)

VIRTUAL

[Hello Around the World](#)

[Hello Hello and More Kids Songs](#) (Video)

DID YOU KNOW?

Children can learn more than one language at a time.

We thank the team of dedicated professionals in the Etobicoke Brighter Futures Coalition that developed these IEMH Play Statements

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Language-rich environments are the foundation for future learning success.