



## Parent-child interaction strategies

Playing with your child is one of the best ways to support their language development.

Playing and interacting with children allows them to develop their interaction and communication skills in the most natural context possible, while also maintaining a fun and positive environment.

To promote interactions during play, it is important that it is child led, which means the child is initiating play and deciding how you play.

There are many researched strategies and approaches to play which can support parents to interact with their children.

### **Act like an O.W.L.:**

**Observe** what your child is interested in

**Wait** for your child to get involved with an activity or initiate play

**Listen** to what your child is trying to say to you

**Be face to face:** Get down to your child's level so you can look directly at one another and share enjoyment of the play activity

**Give them a reason:** Create a situation where your child needs to communicate to complete a task. For example, place a toy out of reach so they need to initiate an interaction with you.

**Join in play:** The best way to follow your child's lead is to join in and play with them, especially if you act like a kid yourself!

### **It's time to R.O.C.K.!**

**Repeat** what you say and do. Play the game several times so your child knows what to expect

**Opportunity.** Give your child the opportunity to take a turn to keep the game going, e.g. making a sound, eye-contact etc.

**Cue** your child that it is their turn. This should be done naturally e.g. using an 'expectant pause' or showing them what to do

**Keep it going!** Continue the game, taking turns with your child, keeping it fun so they want the game to continue.

Most importantly... Have fun!