



## Games and Ideas

- To encourage good looking, listening and turn taking play games such as 'Follow the Leader' or 'My Granny went to market...'
- Encourage your child to engage in role play by setting up pretend shop, house or hospital etc
- Encourage your child to look at you when they want to tell you something and when you are talking to them. Praise your child when they give good eye contact
- Show your child good examples of words to describe your feelings in everyday situations e.g. when you are going out for the day tell your child that you are excited. Ask your child to describe their feelings about things that are happening. Give them suggestions of words they could use e.g. happy, sad, cross, bored
- Encourage your child not to interrupt by letting them know when it is their time to talk

If you are concerned about your child's speech and language development please speak to your child's teacher or contact your health visitor or doctor.

You can also call the speech and language call management centre 02896158100

# Developing Your Child's Social Skills

**COMET**  
Communication and Education Together



## What are social skills?

- To be good at communicating you need more than just the right sounds, words and sentences. You need social skills. Social skills are the things we use to make friends and understand how to interact in everyday situations
- Social interaction is a vital part of communication and learning. Children need to learn how to share, compromise and resolve arguments as well as how to express opinions and feelings
- From a young age children show a desire to interact and this develops continually right through to adulthood
- A range of social skills are needed if your child is to be good at interacting with others. These skills include:
  - making eye contact
  - turn taking
  - sharing conversations
  - expressing feelings and opinions
- Good listening and attention are very important for the development of your child's social skills



## How will I know if my child has poor social skills?

A child with poor social skills may:

- Have clear speech and use good sentences
- BUT**
- Not look at the person who is talking to them
  - Not be aware of when it is their turn to speak
  - Not show interest in what others are saying
  - Play with other children only for short times and often ending in an argument
  - Not respond appropriately in conversations because they have not been listening

## How can I encourage good social skills in my child?

- Encourage your child's listening and attention
- Provide your child with opportunities to take part in shared activities with other children of the same age e.g. 'playing house'.
- With a friend, give your child a 'job' which will give them the chance to interact together e.g. tidying up the Hoover and putting it away