

How children learn to communicate

All children learn to talk in the same way.

They see and hear people talking to them. They see and hear people talking around them.

Some children find it hard to learn language just from listening to others.

Communication aids are used when children find it hard to

- understand language.
- learn or use spoken words.
- make sense of what is happening around them in their world.

Children learn to use communication aids the same way all children learn to talk.

They see and hear people using the communication aid while they are

- talking to the child.
- talking to each other.

They learn what the symbols mean when they are used during their day.

What do children talk about?

Children want to

- hear stories
- laugh
- make silly jokes
- sing songs
- play with you

When you make communication aids, use words that

- children want to use.
- are important to children.
- let children comment, describe, request and protest and interact.

Remember

Children need to hear spoken words for more than a year before they start to talk.

If your child finds talking hard, it can take many months before they learn to use communication aids. It's different for everyone.

Children will always use what is easiest for them. They will use words when they are able to.



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