

## Non-Verbal Skills: Communication without Words or Signs

### What are Non-Verbal Skills?

Surprisingly, during our conversations and interactions a large part of our communication is extra to the words or signs we are using. These skills are the **non-verbal skills** that children usually start to develop from an early age.

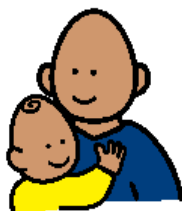
Non-verbal skills are the very important skills that children start to develop before they learn how to talk. They are the building blocks for learning how to talk and communicate and they continue to develop as the child learns.

These skills include:

- attention and listening
- eye-contact
- turn-taking
- copying
- knowing that you need to communicate (communicative intent).
- using facial expression
- using gestures such as pointing
- using sounds and tone of voice
- understanding the non-verbal communication of others

### How to Help

All these skills can be developed through interaction and play with the child. It is important that these skills are initially developed through people games – games without toys (action songs, rough and tumble etc) and then developed through the activities with toys.



Your speech and language therapist will discuss with you the most appropriate activities you can do, or games you can play, to focus on some or all these areas.

