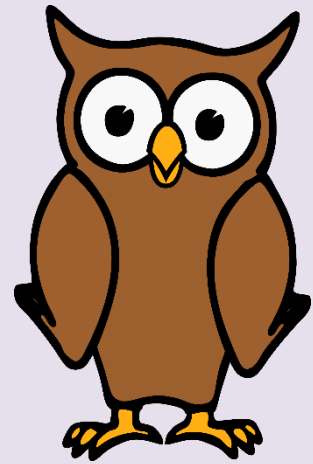


Speech and Language Message of the Week

OWL; Observe, Wait, Listen



Observe for what interests the child

Wait to give the child a chance to initiate or get involved in an activity. Waiting can be hard to do! Try:

- counting to 10
- looking expectant and leaning forward

Listen to what the child is trying to tell you

Get down to the same level as the child so that you can be **face-to-face** for the activity

Play lots of easy turn taking games to help children learn the important skills of **sharing, turn taking** and **looking towards each other.**

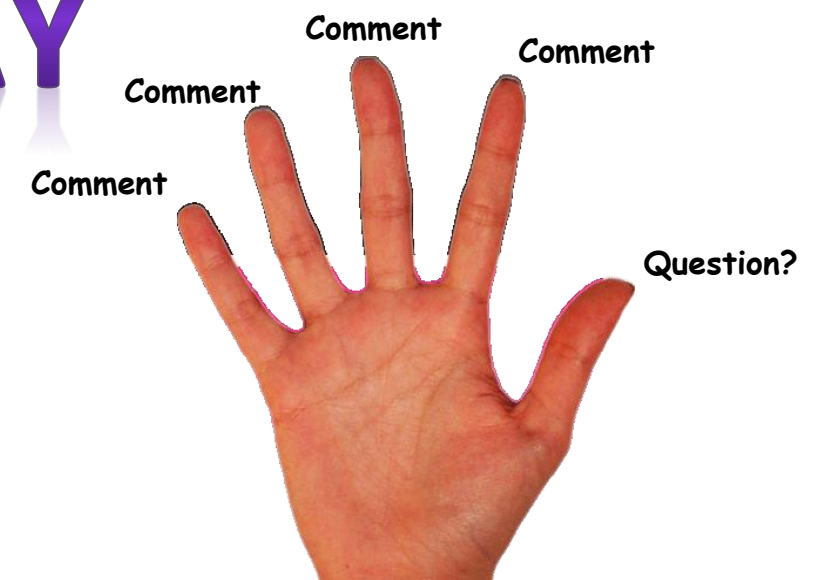
Model what you want to see. **Take turns** and **look towards them** when they are talking to you.

TOP TIPS FOR PLAY

Let children take the lead in play - **copy** what they are doing

Avoid 'jumping in' when things go wrong. Working out how to sort things for themselves will make children **more independent** in their learning

If play is repetitive (e.g. moving a train up and down) **model a different way** to play with the toy (e.g. with a different train model) going over a bridge or through a tunnel)



FIVE FINGER RULE

Comment on what children are doing as they play so they have the words to go with what they are experiencing. Let your hand remind you to comment four times **before** you ask a question!