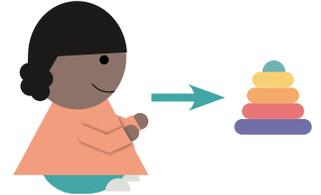




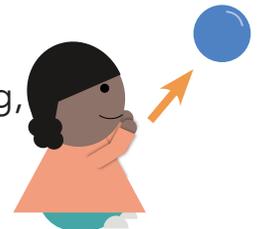
# Arranging the Physical Environment

Whether you are a parent or caregiver at home, or a childcare provider at a center, arranging the areas where children play and go about their daily activities can help support growth in children's communication.

Display toys and materials at **children's eye level**. They may then choose toys of interest to them and be more likely to talk about these preferred toys.



Place some preferred toys **out of reach**, but **within view**, so that children communicate their requests for toys. Watch for children looking, pointing to, or talking about these toys, and respond to their requests.



## Center Tips

- ✓ Arrange play areas, such as block building, books, art, or dress up, in ways that encourages play and interaction
- ✓ Partially set up a play area, such as a dress up or play house area, to give children a "starter" activity to expand and talk about
- ✓ Label shelves and containers with pictures of the materials so children know where materials belong to help promote communication and early literacy, as well as independence

Keep toys and books **organized** using shelves, bins, baskets, or boxes that children can access. This helps children find what they want.

**Display pictures** of children, family members, and caregivers on the wall at children's eye level to promote interest and communication.

**Rotate toys** so that children have opportunities to play with a variety of toys. Organize bins of toys that you can bring out or put away every few weeks. Even putting 1 or 2 toys away for a little while and then rotating them out with other toys can keep play interesting.

Keep household items that children should not have access to, such as breakables, **out of reach**. This reduces the need to redirect the child, or say "no."

## Environment

Organize and plan to promote communication & interaction

