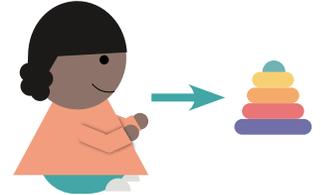




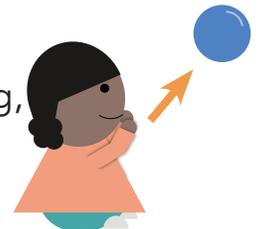
Arranging the Physical Environment

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

