



## Giving Positive Attention to Children who use Gestures & Sounds

### Ideas for Giving Praise & Positive Attention During Activities



#### Play

- Tell a child how nicely they are playing. *"Wow, look at how nice you are playing with that puzzle."* Then, sit down and play together.
- Be specific with positive attention when a child gives another child a hug or a soft touch. *"You gave Kyle such a nice hug!"*
- Playing with a child gives positive attention and encourages communication. They can receive this positive attention best when you are at eye level and engaged with them.



#### Daily Routines

- Give a child attention for holding their bottle or cup by themselves by saying, *"You know just how to use that cup!"*
- Talk about how nicely the child is lying while you are changing their diaper. *"You are waiting so nicely for me to finish with your diaper."*
- Give positive attention as children are learning new skills, such as crawling, walking, or feeding themselves. *"Wow, look at you walking all by yourself!"*



#### Books

- Notice when a child is interested in a book, and give them positive attention by sitting with the child and looking at it together.
- When a child is looking at a book with you and points to or tries to label pictures, name things with them. *"You pointed to the tree! That's a big tree with green leaves."*
- Ask the child to help you turn the pages or hold the book to increase opportunities to give positive attention for helping.

When giving positive attention to children who are sensitive to touch, you can watch carefully to figure out what kind of positive attention they prefer. If they stiffen or pull away when you hug them, try a high five or pat on the back instead. If that is too much, smile at their eye level and clap quietly.

#### Positive Attention

Pay attention, respond, and make positive comments to children when they use vocalizations, words, and gestures.

