

Providing Choices to Children who use Gestures & Sounds

Ideas for Providing Choices During Activities



Play

- Put a variety of toys out during play times, giving a choice of activities.
- Hold up two toys, a car and a doll, and let the child point to or reach for the object they want to play with.
- When a child is working on a shape sorter or puzzle, present two pieces to the child and ask, *"Do you want the square or the circle?"*
- When playing music, ask the child what they want to hear and give a choice between musicians or songs the child knows.



Daily Routines

- At snack or meal time, present two options. *"Do you want peas or carrots?"*
- During diapering, offer a choice of toys for the child to hold. *"Do you want the car or the rattle?"*
- Allow a child to choose their cup. *"Do you want the green cup or the blue cup?"*
- Set two outfits side by side to give the child a choice about what to wear. *"Do you want to wear the truck shirt or the flower shirt?"*



Books

- Hold up two books and have the child point to or reach for the book they want to look at. *"Do you want the animal book or train book?"*
- During storytime, offer a choice of seating. *"Do you want to sit on the floor or in a chair?"*
- After finishing a book, offer a choice to continue reading or transition to a new activity. *"Do you want to read more books or build with the blocks?"*



Did you know even infants make choices? Observe carefully to see what their choices are. Babies may kick more for a certain object, gaze at it, smile at it, or reach for it. If you hold objects at the baby's eye level, but farther apart from each other, it will be easier to tell which object they are choosing.

Provide Choices

Provide two objects or activities from which a child can choose, to encourage communication.

