

# Autism Education Series: Social Communication

## What is Social Communication?

- How we send direct messages to other people.
- Social communication can involve: imitating, responding, initiating, sharing, taking turns, problem solving, waiting, playing in a group.

## Why do we communicate?

- Early communicators will communicate to ask for things and to protest/refuse.
- As a child’s language skills develop, they may start to communicate for more social purposes:
  - showing, commenting
  - engaging in conversation, pretend play

## How do we communicate with others?

eye gaze	facial expressions	signs, pointing
sounds	words	phrases
sentences	pictures	speech devices

## Things to consider...

- Engagement
  - Building positive interactions with your child is the foundation! Watch the video Engagement 101 for more tips.
- Motivation
  - Your child will be more likely to communicate when they are interested and excited!
- Communication Temptations
  - Create fun ways for your child to communicate with you!
  - Examples: For requesting objects - put items the child likes out of reach, but in sight!  
For requesting engagement - sing a favourite song and pause - wait for your child to let you know to keep singing!

## Steps I can take to help my child...

1. Model language to teach your child. Say it how they would, if they could!
  - Use simple, clear, and specific language
2. The power of the PAUSE
  - Say the word for what they want (e.g., bubbles) and pause - give them a chance to copy you!
3. Reward your child’s efforts
  - This will help keep your child motivated to communicate with you!

