

Follow Their Lead Worksheet

This sheet is a summary about the strategy of **'Following Your Child's Lead'** and why it's effective for improving your little one's language development.

1 What is Following Your Child's Lead?

Following your child's lead means being completely present, watching closely, and reacting to what your child shows interest in during playtime and everyday activities. It involves listening to what your little one is trying to say, whether through words, gestures, or actions, and engaging with them based on their interests. By doing so, you create enjoyable and meaningful interactions that help your child learn language naturally and effectively.

2 Why is it effective for improving communication skills?

Following your child's lead is an effective strategy because it makes communication a two-way street, encouraging your child to engage and communicate more when they feel heard and understood. Children are more interested and engaged in conversations about topics that fascinate them, leading to longer and more meaningful interactions. This approach not only makes learning language more enjoyable but also helps children develop stronger communication skills by focusing on their interests and encouraging active participation.

How to Follow Your Child's Lead

1 Get face to face

The first step is to get face to face with your little one. getting face to face is important because you need to be able to see their face to know what they are interested in.

2 Wait for them to start an interaction

To follow your child's lead you need to let them start an interaction. So you need to wait for them to initiate an interaction rather than starting one yourself.

3 Observe what they are interested in

Waiting and observing your child will give you time to notice what your child is interested in and will also let them know that it's their turn to respond.

4 Let them lead

Once you notice something that your little one is interested in, let that interest lead the interaction. Dont try and change to something that you want to do.

5 Play how they play

Play how your child wants to play. If they are using a toy a different way than intended, dont try and get them to play with the toy the way it was intended. You want to keep the interaction going for as long as possible and not get in the way.

6 Join In

Once you are playing with your child how they want to play, you can join in and start to imitate their gestures, facial expressions and words. Make comments about what they are doing and model language to them while you are playing.