

Pause Expectantly Worksheet

This sheet is a summary about the strategy '**Pause Expectantly**' and why it's effective for improving your little one's language development.

1 What is pausing expectantly?

Pause expectantly is a strategy where you create a predictable routine with specific words or phrases during daily activities and then pause before completing the routine to encourage your child to fill in the missing word. For example, in the common phrase "ready, set, go," you would say "ready, set..." and then pause, looking expectantly at your child to prompt them to say "go." This method helps children understand and anticipate what comes next, motivating them to participate and use the words themselves.

2 Why is it effective for improving communication skills?

Pause expectantly is effective because it creates predictable routines that help children learn words through repetition in a consistent context. By pausing before completing a familiar phrase, you encourage your child to actively participate and use the missing word. This method not only helps children understand the meaning of words but also boosts their confidence in using them. The predictable nature of the routine makes children more likely to engage, improving their language development through active involvement and practice.

How to Pause Expectantly

1 Get Face to Face

Start by getting down on your little ones level. You need to be able to clearly see their face and they need to be able to see your mouth and facial expressions.

2 Ask a question

Ask them a question. For example you might point at a picture of a dog and say "It's a...", then wait for their response.

3 Pause and Wait

After you ask your little one a question you want to pause and give them enough time to respond. Count in your head for at least 5 seconds before asking another question.

4 Use Physical Cues

Let them know that you expect a response by using physical cues such as leaning in towards them, smiling at them, raising your eyebrows and opening your mouth slightly.

5 Provide the answer for them

If they don't say anything after waiting at least 5 seconds then provide them with the answer to your question i.e "Dog, It's a dog".