Comment, Dont Question Worksheet

This sheet is a summary about the strategy **'Comment, Dont Question'** and why it's effective for improving your little one's language development.

(1) What is the strategy?

Comment Don't Question is a strategy where you focus on making comments rather than asking questions when talking with your child. Instead of asking questions like "What's this?" or "What does the cow say?", you make statements like "It's aaaa… (pause)" and then provide the answer if your child doesn't respond. This approach removes the pressure on your child to know the correct answer and helps create a more relaxed and engaging conversation.

(2) Why is it effective for improving communication skills?

Comment Don't Question is effective for language development because it removes the pressure from children to provide the correct answer, creating a more relaxed and engaging conversation. By making more comments and asking fewer questions, children are exposed to more language in a natural way, allowing them to learn by listening and imitating without the stress of being tested. This approach helps conversations feel more balanced, making children feel more comfortable and confident to join in and talk, which supports their language development.

Comment, Dont Question Examples:

The goal is to ask less questions and instead make more comments. You don't need to change every question you ask into a comment. You should try and save your questions for situations where you actually need to know your child's preference, for example if they want the red plate or the yellow plate. Below are some examples of when you can change your questions into comments.

Instead of asking:	You could comment:
"What is that?"	"You have a car."
"What am I holding?"	"I'm holding a ball."
"Is the dog barking?"	"Look, the dog is barking."
"Is that juice yummy?"	"That juice looks yummy."
"Is that a plane?"	"That plane is going fast."
"What are you doing?"	"You're playing with blocks."
"Want to play?"	"Let's play."
"What animal is that?"	"That's an elephant."
"What shape is that?"	"That's a small circle."