

## Reflective Tools for Enriching Communication

**Practical ideas to apply in your early years setting that support children in developing their speech, language and communication skills.**

Watch this **online clip** from ICAN, then try out the useful tips that you can put into practice every day as a support to all children in your nursery, playgroup or Early Years Centre:

<http://youtu.be/joqVklInnPoY>

### Self-reflection tool

Use this checklist as a tool to reflect on your own practice and help you identify what is already going well, and to highlight other strategies that would improve and support communication.

How often do you.....	Never	Sometimes	Often	Always
Allow the child to choose the toy; build on their interests				
Get face-to-face, at child's level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you can pick up on all the child's communication</li> <li>• the child can see and hear your models of language</li> </ul>				
Wait expectantly. Allow time for child to take a turn. They may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• initiate communication</li> <li>• respond</li> </ul>				
Comment on what you see happening in the child's play using simple phrases				
Use the same language each time within familiar routines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'ready, steady, ... go'</li> <li>• 'coat on, shoes on'</li> </ul>				
Create opportunities for child to communicate; eg, avoid anticipating the child's needs; wait - they may ask for help				
Support communication with visual cues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• natural gestures</li> <li>• Signalong</li> <li>• objects/pictures</li> </ul>				