

Playing with your child

with communication difficulties



- ✓ Follow your child's lead by joining the child's play with a toy or activity that they're already interested in. Don't change the play!

- ✓ Pace at your child's level e.g. know your child's skill level including concentration abilities, and move on at the first sign of them having had enough!



- ✓ Don't expect too much - give your child time to learn new skills

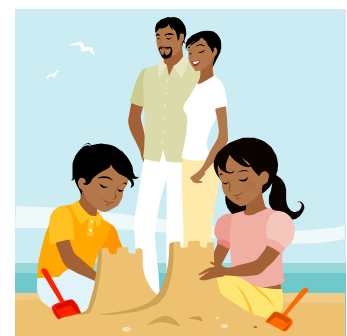
- ✓ Don't compete with your child e.g. it doesn't matter how you play with a toy, so long as there is interaction happening. You don't need to play by the rules!



- ✓ Praise and encourage your child's play; don't criticise

- ✓ Help extend your child's play by showing them new ways to play with the same toy to aid imagination skills and concentration

- ✓ Be an attentive and appreciative audience by waiting and listening as well as adding to the play



- ✓ Use descriptive comments instead of asking questions as this doesn't put your child under stress and will help them to play for longer. It helps them to learn new words while they are focused.

- ✓ Curb your desire to give too much help; encourage your child's problem-solving and let them ask for help before stepping in. Let them come to you!



- ✓ Reward your child playing on their own with your attention e.g. giving praise from time to time as much as when you are directly involved with your child

- ✓ Increase your child's attention by helping them focus on one toy at a time gradually increasing length of play

- ✓ Extend your child's skills by generalising their play as much as possible e.g. if they are playing with a car, talk about your car at home, toy cars, yesterday's bus trip etc.



Laugh and have fun!

