Social Communication Tips

What is Social Communication?

Why and **How** we use language to communicate **with others**. This can include spoken or non-spoken interaction skills.

- Communication is **with others**: sending messages to caregivers and friends for a reason.
- **Why**: ask for something, respond to their name, get someone's attention, greetings
- **How**: pointing, facial expressions, taking turns, sharing a connection during play

For example, a child might ask a question by shrugging their shoulders, asking 'what this?', or pointing to an object.

Many children communicate to:

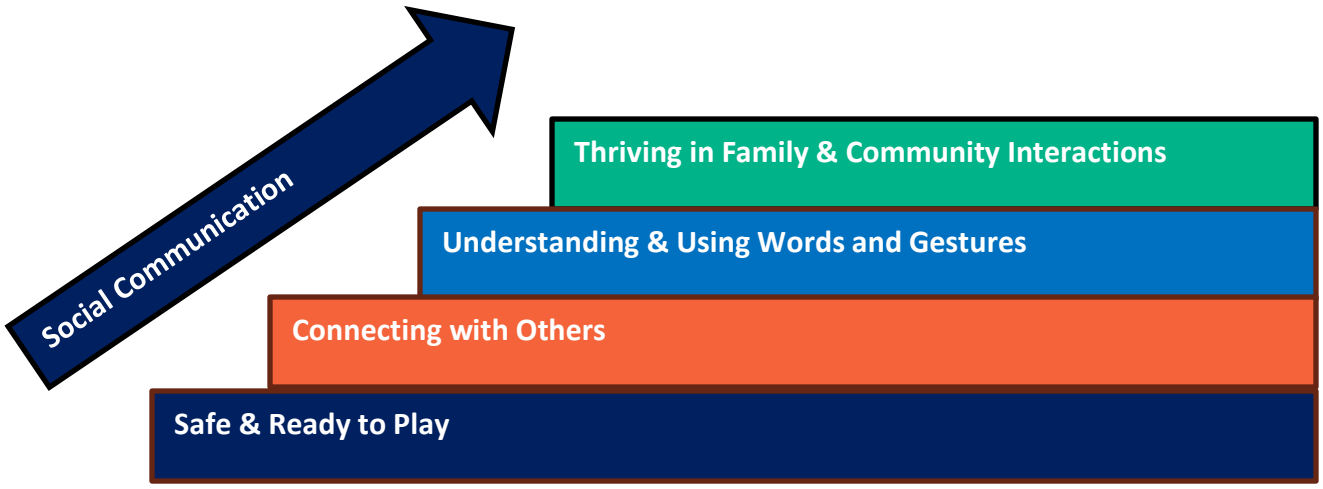
- be silly/to make someone laugh
- tell us hi and bye
- get more information on people and things
- tell us when they want or don't want something
- get you to notice something
- learn more about other people
- tell stories

Why is this important?

Social communication skills support learning of new skills and relationships with others. Before a child can understand new words, they need to know how to connect with others. After they understand, they can use those words to communicate their thoughts and ideas.

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Set the scene:

- **Be a role model**: give your child your full attention (e.g. turn the TV off, put your phone away)
- **Follow their lead**: find an activity your child enjoys
- **Be face-to-face**: sit with your child
- **Share the activity** and wait for response

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