

As you present the objects, remember to always name them.

Wait for your child to tell you what he wants. He may do this by reaching/looking/pointing/making a sound/saying the name/or using a gesture.

Accept any appropriate methods of communication. It is important that you give him the item he has chosen, even if it's not the one that you think he wants. This will let him know that he will get what he asks for and help him develop more effective communication skills.

Decide what choices you are going to offer and when, how and who will do it. Try to be consistent and make sure everyone agrees what methods of communication will be accepted.

Don't worry if it doesn't work straight away, keep trying, it can take a while.



Contact details for the Department:
Speech and Language Therapy Service,
Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital,
Stoney Stanton Rd, Coventry CV1 4FH
Tel: 024 7644187/7684444189

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY



CHOICES

As adults we have many choices in all aspects of our daily life.

- what to wear
- what to eat
- what to watch on t.v.



If we aren't given choices, we become angry and frustrated.



For example, if we went into a restaurant and the waiter gave us fish when we really wanted chicken we would not be happy.

We are able to make our choices known because we can tell people what we want. We may also communicate by gestures, e.g. pointing to the fish we want.

Children with communication difficulties find it hard to make the choices that other children can make. We need to offer children choices as much as possible in order to give them the opportunity to communicate their likes and dislikes with us.

When we offer children choices, it is important that we not only give them a choice, but also give them a way of telling us what they want.

If we don't do this it puts the children into a similar situation as we would be in if we were in a Chinese take-away, where the waiter only spoke Cantonese and the menu was written in Cantonese. We would have plenty of choice but no way of knowing what the choice is and no way of telling the waiter what we want.

Choices can:

- ? help develop understanding of words
- ? help develop understanding of early reasons why we communicate
- ? begin to develop children's ability to ask for what they want or want to do
- ? increase a child's motivation to communicate

When first learning to choose it helps to offer your child a choice of something he wants and another thing he doesn't want.

For example, "Do you want the biscuit or the carrot?"

"Do you want to play with the ball or read a story?"

