

### Early Interaction Games

#### **Peek-a-Boo**

Put a blanket or soft sheet over your child's face and ask "Where's (name)?" Then quickly pull the blanket away and say "There s/he is!" or "peek-a-boo!" Try to wait a little longer each time before pulling the blanket away to increase their attention. Try putting the blanket over your face and have your child pull it away to find you instead.

#### **Tickle Game**

Hold out your hands, look expectantly and say "Tickles" before tickling your child. Leave your hands out a little longer each time to encourage them to wait and anticipate what is coming.

#### **Singing**

Sing familiar rhymes with actions such as 'Wind the Bobbin', 'Row Your Boat' or 'Twinkle Twinkle'. Leave gaps in the songs and see if your child will show you they want more of the song or even fill in the missing word/action. You can also sing songs that have an action that your child can anticipate e.g. "we all fall down!" in 'Ring around the Roses'. Wait a little longer each time before saying 'down' to encourage attention and anticipation.

#### **Bubbles**

Blow some bubbles up in to the air then hold out the bubble wand and wait for your child to look or show they want some more. Wait a little longer each time before blowing the bubbles to encourage longer attention. Ask "More?" and see if your child will copy the word.

#### **Balloons**

Blow up a balloon, hold it out and wait for your child to look before letting it go. Wait a little longer each time to encourage attention. If your child is very motivated when you blow up the balloon, blow in a small amount of air only and ask "More?". Wait for your child signal 'more' before carrying on.

### **Wind Up Toys**

Wind up the toy, hold it out and wait for the child to look or show you they want the toy to go. Wait a little longer each time you play. If the child is really motivated, only wind the toy a small amount then wait to see if they will ask you to wind more. This also works well with squeeze toys, jack in the box or spinning tops.

### **Remember:**

- **Use comments rather than questions to model language**
- **Use simple short phrases of only 1 or 2 words**
- **Your child may only play for a very short time at first but keep trying!**
- **Be face to face and at the same level as your child**
- **Offer simple choices during play by holding up real objects e.g. "Ball or Bubbles?"**
- **Use the same words each time you play**