



Social Communication: Requesting 4a [RQ4a]

**Child looks at nearby objects
when someone points to the
objects as a request**

Purpose

- To help your child look at an object that you want, and to respond to your request.
- To encourage your child to look at an object that you point to or reach for.

Description

This occurs when another person points to a nearby object to request that object and the child looks at that object. Nearby is defined as being within reach. Responding to another person's point by looking at a nearby object shows that the child is beginning to understand that pointing is a form of communication that references a nearby item.

- Another person points to the red crayon and the child looks towards the crayon
- Someone points to the box of crackers during snack time and the child looks at the box of crackers
- A peer points to the blue block and the child looks at the blue block

Activities

- *Dressing:* If your child needs help dressing, lay out his/her clothes some place within your reach and your child's reach. Start by pointing to his/her shirt and saying, "Give me your shirt." The goal is for your child to look at the shirt and then hand it to you. You can do this with each piece of clothing as you dress your child. If your child is able to get dressed independently but has difficulty putting on his/her shoes, you can point to his/her shoe and say, "Give me your shoe." Then do the same with the other shoe. As the child's skill



increases, you can use pointing alone without the name of the object (“Give me that”). You can then hold out your hand for the child to give it to you.

- *Playtime:* While putting a puzzle together, point to a piece (giraffe) and say to your child, “Give me the giraffe.” As the child’s skill increases, use pointing only or say, “Give me that piece.”
- *Bath Time:* During bath time, point to toys or other items in the bathtub (e.g., soap, washcloth) and say to your child, “Give me the toy boat.” As the child’s skill increases, use pointing only.
- *Brushing Teeth:* Put toothbrush and toothpaste out of reach when brushing teeth. Point to the objects to request that your child hand them to you as you go through the routine.

Strategies

- *Be animated* – Over-exaggerate and be silly to draw your child’s attention to you when asking your child to look at something you want.
- *Accompany your communications with intonation, pointing, and non-verbal gestures* – Add extra emphasis with sounds, facial expressions, and gestures when requesting something near-by.

Suggested Toys

- Blocks
- Transportation toys
- Puzzles
- Nesting cups

Goal Mastery

An ASAP Goal is mastered if your child meets ALL of the following criteria:

- Shows the skill at least three times
- Shows the skill during different activities or in different settings such as during snack time, during playtime, or at the grocery store.
- Shows the skill with minimal help or support from an adult