



Social Communication: Requesting 5a [RQ5a]

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

Purpose

- To have your child look at an object that is far away that you point to.
- To help your child look at an object that you want and to respond to your request by giving it to you.

Description

This occurs when another person points to a distant object to request that object and the child looks at the distant object. Distant is defined as being out of reach. Responding to another person's point by looking at a distant object shows that the child is beginning to understand that pointing can reference objects that are farther away and s/he is beginning to follow points as a line of sight. Also, the child is furthering his/her understanding that pointing is a form of communication.

- Child looks as the teacher points to request a book on the top shelf.
- On the playground, the child looks as a peer points to request a ball from the shed.
- At the art table, the child looks as a peer points to request a glue stick from the shelf.

Activities

- *Meal Time:* Point to and request a napkin, a cup, or a food item. Encourage your child to give it to you. Your child may help you throw trash away after meals or placing dirty dishes in a sink full of water after you point to them.



- *Bath Time:* Point to and request a washcloth, a bottle of shampoo, a toy, or a towel. Encourage your child to give it to you. Your child may be engaged by a silly noise you make or splash in the water after they look toward the object.
- *Playtime:* Point to and request any toy that is out of reach like a block or doll. Your child may be interested in helping you clean up when you point to objects before tossing them in a bin.
- *Dressing:* With clothes out of your and your child's reach, you can point to and request any piece of clothing while dressing him/her.
- *Story Time:* Point to and request a different book or the page of a book to be turned.
- *Pet Feeding/Play:* Point to pet food or toys during daily feeding or play with your pet.

Strategies

- *Be animated* – over-exaggerate and be silly to draw your child's attention to you when asking your child to give you something. Try calling their name and getting their attention before you point. Remember: at first, your goal is only to have your child look where you point.
- *Accompany your communications with intonation, pointing, and non-verbal gestures* – add extra emphasis with sounds, facial expressions, and gestures when requesting something at a distance

Suggested Toys

- Transportation toys
- Ball
- Craft supplies
- Books

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