



Social Communication: Requesting 6 [RQ6]

Child combines a gesture and/or sounds/words with looking at person to request

Purpose

- To encourage your child to point to the object and look at you, using a clear signal that s/he needs help or wants something.

Description

This occurs when the child gestures (e.g., giving, reaching, pointing) and/or vocalizes/verbalizes while making eye contact with another person in order to indicate that s/he wants an object or person. This can also be in the form of a depictive gesture (e.g., bouncing up and down to indicate a horsey game) combined with eye contact to indicate that s/he wants an action or game. Combining eye contact with another form of communication shows that the child is beginning to recognize that the person must see or attend to their gesture/vocalization/verbalization in order for his/her request to be understood.

- The child looks at another person while pointing at a desired toy
- The child looks at another person and says, "my turn" to request a toy or action
- The child looks at another person, reaches for a needed item, and makes a vocalization

Activities

- *Meal Time:* Keep items that your child will need out of reach, such as silverware, a cup, or food that s/he likes. After your child points or makes a verbal request (such as, "I want milk") wait a few seconds to encourage your child to also look at you. If the child doesn't look, hold out just a bit longer, but don't allow the child to get frustrated. Overall, you want the experience to be positive.



- *Dressing:* If your child is able to get dressed independently, hold his/her shirt out of reach and wait for him/her to ask for the shirt. If your child makes a verbal request (“shirt?”) or points at the shirt, wait a few seconds to see if your child will look at you.
- *Playtime:* When playing with toys or completing a puzzle, place a toy or puzzle piece out of your child’s reach. If your child makes a verbal request or points to the toy, wait a few seconds to see if your child will look at you.
- *Playtime – bubbles:* When playing with bubbles outside, place the bubble container out of reach and wait for your child to gesture vocalize and look at you to request more. You might consider being silly and exaggerating if your child is only gesturing and/or vocalizing to the bubble jar to draw attention to yourself.

Strategies

- *Accept any sound, word, or even an incorrect word, by responding to your child’s intention* – provide your child with his or her requested item even if he/she is not saying the exact word
- *Expand to show your child the next developmental step* – when your child only makes a gesture or sound to request something, model pairing the request with looking and/or using a word
- *Stand near an out-of-reach preferred item* – your child may be more likely to pair looking at you with a request when you are standing near the item
- *Use follow-in directives* – using your child’s interests and/or items your child is playing with, direct your child to request those items from you and/or another person by combining gesture and/or sounds and to look at you or the other person

Suggested Toys

- Dolls/action figures
- Craft supplies
- Ball
- Transportation toys
- Kitchen toys

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