

## Important Nonverbal Communication Skills

### Shared Attention for Requesting

#### What is it?

Getting and directing the attention of another person in order to gain help or obtain a desired object.

The child must understand that the caregiver is also paying attention to that item.

#### What this looks like:

- The child reaches for a toy, then looks at their caregiver to show that they want that toy with the expectation that the caregiver will give them the toy
- The child shifts their gaze from a bubble wand to their caregiver to indicate that they want the caregiver to blow more bubbles.
- The child points at a snack, then looks at their caregiver to show that they want the caregiver to give them that snack
- The child shifts their gaze from a musical toy to their caregiver when the toy stops playing music in order to get their caregiver to turn the toy back on

#### How you can encourage shared attention and requesting during play:

- Be face to face with your child (at eye level) when playing together
- Create reasons for your child to communicate:
  - o Put desired objects in view but out of reach.
  - o Offer desired objects bit-by-bit.
  - o Play with toys that your child cannot play with independently (for example, bubbles, or wind up toys).
- Wait for your child to request, rather than anticipating and meeting their needs.