

## Important Nonverbal Communication Skills

### Shifting Attention/Coordinated Looks

#### What is it?

The ability to switch attention and eye gaze between an object and another person. The child disengages from what they are focused on and shifts their attention to something new. This can be unintentional or intentional. Eventually, the child can coordinate their looks between objects and people.

#### What this looks like:

- The child looks at an object or event, then at their communication partner, then back at the object or event
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#### Why is this important?

This is essential for the development of other social communication skills such as shared attention and joint attention, as well as receptive and expressive language development.

This skill is required for participating in play with another person.

#### How you can encourage shifting attention and coordinated looks during play:

- Be face to face with your child (at eye level) when playing together
- Place objects of interest closer to your face
- Make expectant sounds and wait expectantly