

## TURNING QUESTIONS INTO COMMENTS

Sometimes we use questions to help the child talk, but using the wrong question can stop the conversation. Questions can be hard for children with language delays because:

- they put pressure the child
- conversation becomes unbalanced.
- we don't give enough time for a response.
- they feel they are being "tested" when we ask questions that we already know the answer.
- can be limited to only yes or no answers.
- can be insincere (e.g. "You want juice, don't you?")

Try to:

- Ask questions that you don't already know the answer to (e.g. where are your shoes?)
- Ask few questions by turning your questions into comments

Turn your questions into comments:

- Are you full? → You ate a lot!
- Are you tired? → You look sleepy.
- Is it raining? → It's raining outside.
- Do you like playing this? → Looks like you're having fun!
- Are you playing trucks? → The trucks are going fast!

You can also use 'good' questions, which are

- Open ended: require more than a yes or no answer (e.g. I wonder where the train is going)
- Choice questions: do you want juice or milk?
- Followed by a long pause: give more time for child to answer.