vocalize

KEEP NEARBY

One useful moment.
Five steps to make it yours.

A reminder for the adult. Use your family's language and respond to the child in front of you.

1 Notice

Join an interest or offer an activity. Keep your face, hands and tools comfortably visible. No eye contact required. Check meaning.

2 Model

Say or show a word or short phrase that fits, then pause. 'Here comes the bus!' Later, 'Bye, bus!' You can speak, sign or use AAC. Copying is optional.

3 Pause

Stop talking; resist filling the quiet. Allow time to process and use communication tools. Respond sooner to a need; no fixed countdown. If nothing comes, that is still a complete moment.

4 Respond

Acknowledge and act: help, share, answer or stop. Silence does not confirm a guess. Name a clear request before explaining a limit.

5 Build

Add one useful piece: 'car' to 'red car' or 'car goes.' Expand sounds, words or sentences; signs and symbols count. No repeat required.

Two ways to begin

You can follow an interest or offer a book, toy or clear activity. Sitting, standing and movement can all fit.

Keep this with every step

Respond to needs now. Help, breaks and familiar communication tools stay available. Skip a step, repeat, simplify or finish when that fits.