

# Why communicating with babies is important

Dr Anne Kennedy provides further information which identifies the positive outcomes for babies when educators value talking and communicating with them.

## Educator's role and practices

Engages in respectful communication. Listening and speaking is attuned to each baby's personal way of, and purpose for, communicating.



## Learning outcomes for babies

Fosters a baby's positive sense of self-esteem – 'I am a worthwhile person that adults listen and talk to'.

Uses a range of communication strategies to talk to babies about people and objects in the environment and the events that occur each day.



Babies begin to learn that language has meaning and purpose and about concepts related to their world and every day experiences.

Listens carefully to know when a baby is interested in something or someone; and initiates and sustains conversation with them about that interest.



Develops babies' attention skills as they are kept engaged in conversations which are about things that interest them.

Uses sounds and language in playful and creative ways; and tunes babies into natural and environmental sounds.



Supports the development of language skills – making, imitating and tuning into sounds; turn-taking in conversations; and enjoying using and hearing language.

Uses familiar communication strategies when changes are happening in the room or during routine experiences.



Promotes babies' sense of wellbeing through predictability of practice.

Recognises and responds consistently when a baby communicates a need through vocalisations, gestures or body language.



Builds a sense of agency and supports the development of attachment through experiencing educator's consistent responsiveness to expressed needs.

Ensures and enjoys daily opportunities for one to one interaction with every baby.



Helps babies learn about the nature of reciprocal and respectful relationships; and supports the development of their sense of identity as they experience educators responding to their efforts.

## References and further reading

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