

Strategy Spotlight Sheet: Following Your Child’s Lead

What It Is

Following your child’s lead means joining in with what they’re interested in—rather than directing or changing the activity. You observe, wait, and then respond to what they’re doing or showing you.

Why It Helps

When you follow your child’s interests, you help them stay engaged and motivated to communicate. It shows respect for their choices and helps create fun, meaningful interactions that support learning.

Try It Out

- If your child is playing with cars, sit nearby and make car sounds—or race your own car alongside theirs.
- If they go to the bookshelf, sit down and look at a book together—even if it’s one you’ve already read a hundred times!
- Notice what they’re looking at, reaching for, or talking about—and go with it.

Next Steps

- Watch your child. Wait to see what catches their attention.
- Try resisting the urge to take over or redirect the play.
- Reflect with your SLP on what differences you notice in your child’s communication when you follow their lead. Do they communicate more?

Notes:



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