



Communicating With Your Child

Tune in and

Hear

Your Child's Cues

All Behavior is Communication

Children learn communication in every social interaction. Start by noticing the child's cues and finding the meaning in their actions. Cues can mean different things. Try to figure out what the child's actions mean before responding to them.

Your child does this:

They might be saying:



Smiling



"I love you," or "I enjoy this, do it again."

Shouting



"I am excited," or "I feel frustrated."

Crying



"I am tired," or "My feelings are hurt."

Running Away



"Play chase with me," or "I don't want to stop what I am doing."

Bringing you a toy



"I want to play with you," or "Look at what I have."

Crawling up onto your lap



"I need you," or "I feel safe with you."

Spending time alone



"I need a break," or "I enjoy time alone."

Watching something closely



"I really like this,"
or "I'm not sure about this."

Covering my face



"I want to play peek-a-boo,"
or "I'm scared."

Tuning in and "hearing" your child's cues will help you offer a response that addresses your child's needs.



Family, Infant and Preschool Program
of the
J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center



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