



# Helping Children Learn Social Communication

Some children with autism or other social communication differences have difficulty interacting with others. When caregivers keep demands low, include the child's interests, are aware of the child's sensory preferences, and follow the steps below, children learning positive social behaviors are more likely to be successful.

Sensory preferences are how your child responds to sights, sounds, touches, movements, tastes, & smells.

Social Communication Includes:

- Eye contact
- Parent-child communication
- Responding to their name
- Imitating people
- Following directions
- Initiating interactions

5 steps to help your child develop social communication skills everyday:

1. Watch the cues your child uses to tell you what they like and don't like.
2. Use your child's cues to **CONNECT** with them in an activity they are already doing (without making demands, asking questions, or redirecting).
3. **INVITE** your child into an activity or routine they are interested in by making it fun and exciting.

4. Use your child's cues to help you choose ways to ENGAGE, keep them engaged, or re-engage them in an activity.
5. Once your child is engaged, TEACH them something new or help them practice something they are learning.