



Promoting Social Communication by Connecting

Some children with autism or other social communication differences have difficulty interacting with others. Before a child can be expected to join others in their activities, the child must first feel comfortable having others around them. Caregivers can make the most of their interactions by learning to connect with their child.

5 strategies to connect with your child during family routines:

1. Watch what your child does on their own and watch for cues about what they like and enjoy.
2. Notice the actions you take that moves your child farther from you. Do that less.
3. Notice the actions you take that keep your child near you. Do these more.

Examples:

- Minimize your talking.
 - Use playful sounds and movements.
 - Copy what your child is doing.
 - Hand your child toys or materials they like or want without asking anything in return.
4. End your participation after a few minutes, before your child gets frustrated and leaves the area.
 5. Repeat this kind of interaction regularly.