



Why should I use gesture?

- ✓ We use gestures naturally when we speak to support what we are saying; gestures can **make what you say easier to understand**.
- ✓ Children learn by matching what they can hear to what they can see. Gestures often match the words that you say and can even look like what you are talking about (e.g. the gesture for drink, looks like a cup); **gestures make learning words easier**.
- ✓ Gestures (that you can see) are easier to remember than words (that you hear). **Gestures help children tune-in to the most important words being used**.
- ✓ When we use gesture it makes us think about the language that we are using and how fast we are talking – **slower and more simple language makes learning new words easier**.
- ✓ **Gestures are often easier to use than words**. Children can often show you what they mean before telling you. Using gestures can help children express themselves.

How do I use gesture?

- ✓ You don't need to know formal signs, when you can just support what you say using your hands, facial expression and objects around you! For example



Use gesture and point to things you are talking about or where you want your child to look.
Put your hands on your ears / lips if you want your child to listen / look.