



Project DITEAM12

Diverse and Inclusive teams for children under 12

Competence for coaches:
Communication



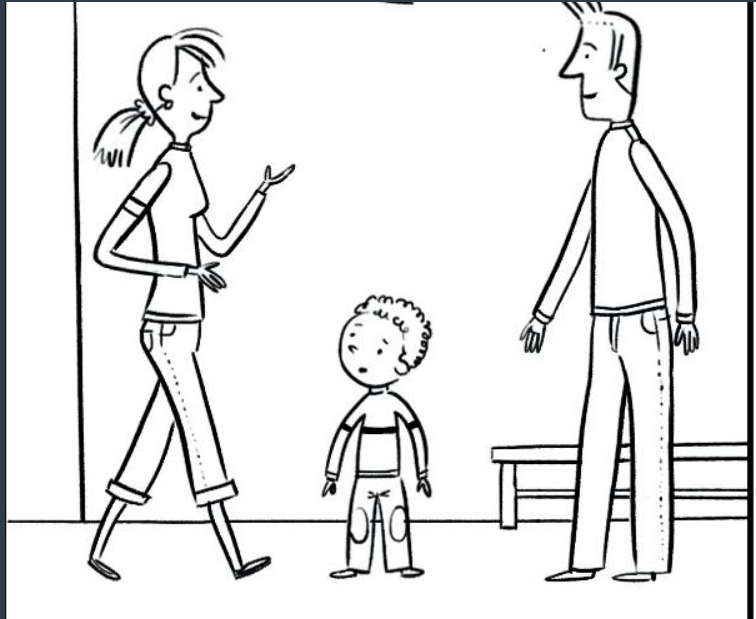
What will you learn today?



- What is communication?
- Why do we need to know how to communicate with children?
- What are the steps to achieving effective communication with children?



What is communication?



- Communication is much more than just how we speak to each other, whether through words, gestures or other non-verbal means. **Communication is relating to one another.**
- Think about how you talk to children, how you address each other, what tone you use when speaking to children, what expressions you use, when you engage with them, whether and how you listen to them.



Why do we need to know how to communicate with children?



- It is important to talk to the child in such a way as to **arouse their interest in the world**, not to limit their own wonder and to encourage their curiosity and perseverance.
- We should **guide them and develop their interest**, knowing that this is their own way of discovering the world. Their own activity is the best motivation and their own knowledge is their reward.

Steps to effective communication



Step 1: Active listening



Being able to listen to others is an important skill that one develops throughout one's life. The earlier you start practicing it with your child, the better.

→ Children who can listen can easily concentrate on what is being asked of them and learn to understand instructions.

→ They will listen to others without "jumping in".

→ They develop their empathy - the ability to empathise with others.



Steps to effective communication



Step 1: Active listening

- It is important to cultivate good communication habits from a young age, especially:
 - taking turns in speaking, and
 - looking each other in the eye to let the other person know that we are listening.
- Children learn most at an early age by imitation, so they repeat exactly what they see around them. If you talk to them from the other room or answer while looking at your phone, they will learn the same mischief.



Steps to effective communication



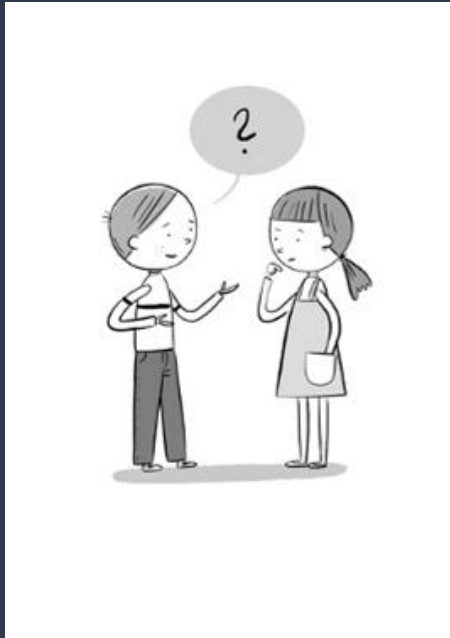
Step 2: Descriptive Language

Descriptive language

- When talking to children, it is advisable to use descriptive language, i.e. to talk to the child by **describing in detail what the child is doing**.
- You should talk to the child in such a way that you are just describing what you see, not assuming, not asking questions, not inferring what is not there. **Your speech should not contain (unnecessary) commands, prohibitions and evaluation.**
- A neutral description is more appropriate - it supports the child, encourages his/her own confidence and independence, creativity and the desire to discover new things.



Steps to effective communication



Step 3: Asking Questions

Asking questions

- Think about how you ask children questions. Asking a **question might not always be the most appropriate form of conversation**. Often it can be replaced with a description, commenting on what the child is doing to keep the conversation going and to **guide and support the child**.
- Ask **open-ended questions** so that the child has more opportunities to explore and expand when answering.



Activities

Try to think about your recent interactions with your child:

- Were you an active listener?
- What expressions did you use?
- What questions did you ask?

After reading through this presentation, can you think of ways these interactions could be improved?

Good Practices

Descriptive language and interactive reading are good strategies to support linguistic capabilities and communication with children.



Good Practices

Descriptive language

To describe...	Say...
Focused work	'You've been working on this puzzle so diligently and you think about each particular piece'
Following instructions	'You've been following my instructions exactly as I said. You listened very carefully'
Problem solving	'You've been thinking hard about how to solve this problem and you have a great idea how to do it now'



Interactive reading

Describe pictures

- Encourage the child to describe what (s)he sees in the picture
- Take turns

Ask open questions

- ‘What do you see in this page?’ (observation)
- ‘What is happening here?’ (storytelling)
- ‘What is this a picture of?’ (knowledge)
- ‘How is she feeling?’ (emotions)
- ‘What will happen next?’ (predicting)

Praise and encourage

- Praise and encourage the child during the process of solving the task
- ‘It’s evident that you’ve been thinking about it a lot’
- ‘Wow, you really know a lot about [topic]’

Develop the child’s thought

- ‘Yes, I also think that he is upset. Maybe he is also a bit scared’
- ‘Yes, we are going to the park. Do you remember your last trip to the park?’



Think!

- What do you want to teach children in the way you communicate with them, what do you want to instil in them?
- What do you consider to be the strengths of your communication with children, parents and coaches?
- How authentic is your communication? (i.e., you express what you feel in an openly and behave accordingly.)
- To what extent do the questions you ask and the way you ask them stimulate children's interest?



Further resources

- [Raisingchildren.net.au](https://raisingchildren.net.au) – Communicating well with babies and children
- The Incredible Years – [Effective Communication handout](#)



What have you learnt?

- Communication is not just how we speak to each other, communication is relating to one another.
- Effective communication with your child can arouse their interest in the world and encourage their curiosity and perseverance.
- Important steps to improve your communication with your child are being a good listener, using descriptive language, and knowing how and when to ask questions.



Sources

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