

## Quick Tips for Improving Communication Skills at Home

Below are a few general tips for helping children expand their communication skills at home.

- Provide ample wait time.
  - *Many students with language needs benefit from additional time to think about your statement/question and to formulate their response.*
  
- Use more statements than questions.
  - *Questions can often add a layer of anxiety for many students.*
  - *Example: Instead of “What did you do today?” say “Tell me two things you did at school today.”*
  
- For younger children, provide fixed choices as often as possible.
  - *At times, children may not have the language for what they want or what they are feeling. Hearing options to pick from can help them formulate a response.*
  
- Use ‘I wonder’ statements to allow students to engage in critical thinking and lead to a fun conversation.
  - *Example, “I wonder why that truck is pulled over to the side of the road.”*