

Let's Play!

Look for these pre-verbal cues to know when a child is ready to engage with you:

My eyes are wide open and bright



"I am open!"
"I welcome you and experiences!"

I am looking at you



"You are interesting to me."
"Come see me."

I reach out to you



"I need you."
"Please connect with me."

I make eye contact and smile at you



"Let's play together!"

I take your hand or motion for you to join



"Please come join me."

Let's Pause.

Look for these cues to know when to wait a while before inviting a child to play:

I put my hand up toward you or push away a toy



"I need more space."
"Give me a minute."

I'm exploring on my own



"Watch me or talk about what I'm doing."
"No new ideas, please."

I turn away from you or walk away decisively



"I may be back, but I need a break."

I wrinkle my brow, blink my eyes or pout



"Stay with me, but give me time to think."

I shrug my shoulders



"Please pause and reassure me."
"Follow what interests me!"



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