Here are some play activities you can do at home with your child to improve communication and requesting skills. Always pause and wait after you try one of these activities to give your child time to respond in some way. Anything your child does after you try one of these ideas may be his way of trying to communicate, request, or show he wants something to happen again. Your child might grunt, reach, make a sound or word, point, or make eye contact with you. Reward these behaviors to praise your child by giving him what he is trying to get. If you have any questions, please ask your speech-language therapist.

1. **Eat a food your child likes without offering any to him.**
   Wait and see what your child does to get some of the food. Give your child a piece of the food as a reward if he tries to grunt, reach, make a sound or word, point, or make eye contact with you, as these are all good ways for your child to ask for something.

2. **Offer only a little bit of something and then wait.**
   For example, pour a little milk or only give one or two blocks, and wait to see what your child will do to get more.

3. **Do not automatically give your child something he wants or needs before he lets you know that he wants it.**
   For example, give your child a piece of paper without crayons or markers and wait, or wait at the refrigerator if you think your child wants a drink, rather than just automatically getting it.

4. **Make a wind-up toy go, let it run out, and hand it to your child.**
   Wait and see how your child will ask you to wind the toy again. Help your child hand the toy to you to show that they want it to happen again. Say “again,” “more,” or “help” to show your child what words he could say.

5. **Give your child four blocks to drop in a box, one at a time, then give your child a small animal figure (something different) to drop in the box.**
   Wait and see if your child looks at you or can let you know that you gave the wrong thing. You could also use some other play activity that your child will repeat, such as stacking blocks, dropping the blocks on the floor, or placing trains together on a track, and then give something different that is silly, such as a banana.
6. Open a jar of bubbles, blow bubbles, and then close the jar tightly and give the closed jar to your child.
   Wait and see how your child will ask you to open or blow bubbles again. Help your child hand the bubble jar back to you to show that he wants more bubbles.

7. Start a playful social game with your child (i.e., peek a boo, gonna get you, tickle, ring around the rosy). Then stop the game and wait.
   See how your child continues the activity, for example, will your child put your hands over your eyes again? Will he put his hands on his own eyes? If you are using a sheet, will your child pull the sheet off of your face as a means to start the game again, or put the sheet over your head or his head?

8. Blow up a balloon and slowly let the air out, then hold the empty balloon up to your mouth and wait.
   See if your child will put the balloon to your mouth, point to the balloon, imitate blowing with his own lips or breath, or imitate signing or saying, “balloon,” to request that you blow up the balloon again.

9. While your child is watching you, place a food or toy that he likes in a clear container that he cannot open. Then put the container in front of your child and wait.
   Wait and see how your child will ask you to open the container again. Show your child that he can hand you the jar to help get it open.

10. Wave and say, “bye bye,” to an object/toy and then put it away or out of sight. Do this several times, and then wave and say “bye bye,” but leave the object or toy there.
    Help your child wave or say, “bye bye.”

11. Hide a stuffed animal under the table or outside of your child’s room. Knock and then get the animal. Have your child greet the animal (saying hi, waving etc.).
    After you do it five or more times, knock and bring out the animal but don’t wave or say, “Hi.” Wait and see how your child waves or says, “Hi.”

12. Bounce your child on your lap or on a large exercise ball. Before starting to bounce, put your child on the ball facing you, and say in an excited voice, “ready…set…go!”
    After doing this several times, stop bouncing and say “ready, set….,” and pause before saying, “go.”
    Wait and see how your child will get you to bounce them on the ball again. Your child might make eye contact with you, start bouncing while looking at you, or say the word, “go.” You can do this with wind-up toys, toy cars down a ramp, or any other activity with things that move with the word, “go.”

13. Hide toys or objects that your child likes in places where you can find them together.
    For example, hide a favorite train in the mailbox when going to get the mail, or in your child’s cup, shoe, bed, or jacket pocket. Then act surprised and see what your child says.
14. **Pretend to make a mistake on a step in an activity.**
   For example, put your sock on your hand instead of your foot.

15. **Wait a few seconds before fixing little problems that happen throughout your day or in play.**
   For example, look at your child and wait to see what he does when a toy falls on the floor, rather than just picking it up.

16. **Use toys that show actions for you and your child to do.**
   For example, push toys that make noise and represent objects, musical instruments, rattles, and cause-effect toys where something pops open with a button or you put something in and something happens (put a penny in a piggy bank and music plays).

17. **Use toys that help your child look at your face.**
   For example, bubbles, rings, balloons, and pinwheels.

18. **Play with things that are fun for two people.**
   For example, throwing, catching, kicking, and rolling balls, pushing vehicles, and acting out play with two puppets.