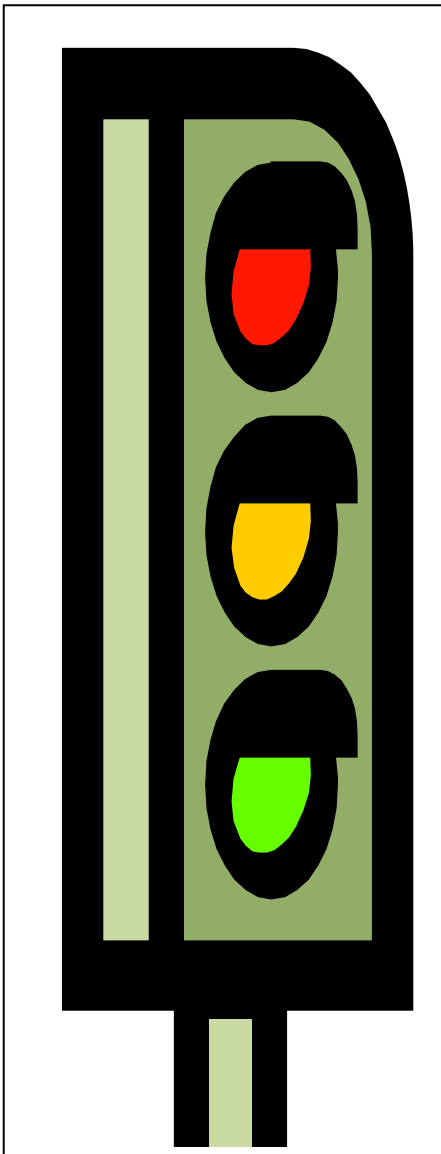




Follow the Child's Lead



STOP/WAIT

Stop encouraging the child to do what you want them to do. Instead let the child lead the play and choose what they would like to do. Wait for the child to start the interaction.

OBSERVE/LISTEN

Watch and observe the child. This reinforces the idea of letting the child lead. It shows that you are interested in what the child is doing and it will make your responses more relevant and appropriate. While watching and listening make note of any attempts to communicate. Treat these attempts, however approximate, as meaningful communications and respond accordingly

RESPOND

Respond by modelling language that is useful for the child. Respond by:

- Repeating – repeat what the child says but use a correctly structured and articulated sentence
- Expanding – repeat what the child says but add 1 or 2 words either at the end of the sentence or within the sentence
- Explaining – describe what the child is doing or looking at, using short, simple sentences that are two or three words longer than the sentences the child would normally use. If the language matches their interest, the child is more likely to listen and absorb the information