Communication begins with shared attention. This happens when you and your child are able to both focus at the same time on a toy or object. It begins when one person tries to get another person to look at something such as an object or event.

Children can respond to a bid for shared attention by following your gaze or point or responding to your voice. Children can start joint attention by pointing, looking or vocalising.

Encouraging shared attention.....

- Try to position yourself at the same level as your child, either opposite them or at an angle.
- Try to be fun to listen to or have something interesting to look at.
- Model pointing and gesture.
- Call your child’s name and show them a new object or activity. If they show an interest in it then try to enjoy some shared playtime together.
- If they show you an object of interest to them, show that you are interested by joining in their play, copying them and commenting on their activity.