

Parent Resources: Supporting Communication for Children with ASD

This handout provides parents with practical, evidence-based resources to help increase their child's communication at home. The strategies and tools are designed for everyday routines and natural interactions.

1. Hanen Centre – More Than Words® Program

- Designed specifically for parents of young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
- Focuses on building interaction, play, and communication during daily routines (mealtimes, play, dressing, etc.).
- Parents learn to follow their child's lead, create opportunities for communication, and support social interaction.

Website: <https://www.hanen.org/Programs/For-Parents/More-Than-Words.aspx>
<https://www.hanen.org/information-tips/tips>

2. Autism Speaks – Communication Resources for Families

- Provides free toolkits and guides, including 'Communication for Children with Autism'.
- Covers augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), speech strategies, and parent tips.
- Includes visual supports, social stories, and easy-to-use communication strategies for home.

Website: <https://www.autismspeaks.org/communication>

3. Engaging activities to promote speech and language development at home.

- <https://www.expressable.com/learning-center/tips-and-resources/15-speech-therapy-strategies-for-parents-to-use-at-home>
- <https://ptpofla.com/promoting-speech-and-language-at-home-tips-and-activities-for-parents/>

Practical Tips for Parents

- Use simple, clear language and repeat key words often.
- Follow your child's interests to build motivation for communication.
- Pause during routines to give your child time to respond or request.
- Celebrate all communication attempts (gestures, sounds, words, pictures).
- Incorporate visual supports (pictures, objects, gestures) to support understanding.

These resources and strategies can help families encourage meaningful communication in everyday life.