

## Suggested Presentation Timeline: Early Communication



This lesson outline is designed to be a teaching tool for early learning professionals who teach this information in a wide variety of settings. Therefore, please use the outline below as a guide and modify it as necessary to meet the needs of your audience and schedule.

### Minutes 0 - 10      Welcome and Introductions

- Begin your presentation or workshop by creating a comfortable environment.
- Introduce yourself to your group / audience and orient them to the environment (restrooms, important announcements).

### Minutes 10 - 40      Presentation of Topic

Provide your group with an overview of the topic you will be presenting. This brings all the participants together quickly as well as to engage the group in the learning. Here are some options for how to do this:

1. Tell a story that engages the audience.

*Lisa is changing her four month old baby's diaper. As he kicks and stretches on his changing table, Lisa smiles and says, "Okay Sweetie, it's time to change your diaper. Are you ready?" The baby looks up at her and smiles and coos. Lisa responds, "Oh good boy! You are ready for a nice, clean diaper." Even though her baby can't talk, they are having a conversation.*

2. Provide a definition of the topic / terms that are being discussed.

*Definition of Early Communication: Early Communication is used to describe all of the non-verbal and verbal ways babies communicate during the first 18 months, as well as the role of parents and caregivers in communication and the process of language acquisition.*


3. Some educators find it helpful to begin with a general question. For example:

- When you think of "early communication", what ideas come to mind?
- Can you think of any examples of early communication you have experienced with your own children or children in your care?

4. Provide an overview that introduces your audience to the research-based information about the topic.

*Research suggests that babies are born ready to communicate. Infants just hours old are capable of imitating a happy or sad face. By four to five months, they are cooing and smiling. By ten months, babies are pointing and experimenting with the sounds that eventually become words. By their first birthday or shortly thereafter, most babies have spoken their first words, and by 18 months, their vocabulary begins to grow. Parents play a critical role in supporting their children's ability to communicate and eventually use language.*



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- Review the goals of what you intend to teach, describe what tools/resources they can expect to gain by attending the event, and present the Parenting Counts Program Curriculum.

**Minutes 40 - 50      Applied Learning Activity**

- Most audiences are ready for a change in activity after 20-30 minutes of lecture. Consider the composition of your group and decide what type of activity best meets their needs.
- Some educators choose to have participants work in pairs to maximize comfort with the topic, others opt for a group discussion to allow a variety of opinions to be heard and validated.
- Parenting Counts offers multiple video options that can be used during this time to encourage discussion or to continue the learning experience.

**Minutes 50 - 60      Closure and Evaluation**

- Closure: Be sure to recap the key messages of the presentation as well as provide tools that incorporate the learning into parenting practices.
- Evaluation: Please distribute an evaluation form as part of your presentation. It is important to give participants an opportunity to comment on the presentation as well as to provide you with an assessment of their learning.

