

Challenging Your Child

General Techniques

- * Start each FT session by making sure the child is interested in and engaged with you.
- * Encourage interaction, communication, and thinking, building complexity with each challenge
- * Use two main approaches: playing dumb and playfully obstructing
- * Use playing dumb for children who are purposeful and want or need something from you. You become a bumbler who can't do anything right and don't understand, getting the child to direct your actions. What do you want? A cookie or a box? Where is it? How do I get it?
- * Use playful obstruction for more avoidant, self-absorbed children. You encourage interaction by getting in the way and being just a bit of a pain—but not too frustrating or irritating. Provide an obstacle for a rolling car, or a bumpy surface for a block.
- * Never sacrifice the fun of an interaction and lose a child's interest when challenging.
- * Expect a response.
- * Do not try for one desired answer.
- * Give the child a chance to respond.
- * Respond positively to any response and treat it as purposeful and effective

