Hanen Centre
Talking with Young Children

**Follow the Child’s Lead**
Observe, Wait, Listen
- Observe child’s focus of attention, facial expressions, body language
- Wait to give child time to express himself
- Listen carefully to child’s attempts to communicate

Imitate
- Her look pretty!

Comment
- Your dolls going to have such clean hair!

Join in and play
- “Hi Hi

**Adjust the Way You Talk**

Be face to face
- Juice, you want juice.
- Oh, uh.

Interpret
- Mmm, these apples are yummy!
- Yummy!

**Extend the Topic**

Talk about feelings
- “I bet those fish feel happy when you visit them.”

Inform
- “The fish are swimming like you swim in the pool!”

Talk about the future
- “We are going to feed the fish after sleep time.”

Pretend
- “Let’s pretend we’re fish swimming in the water.”

Explain
- “The fish are swimming to the top because they want to get the food.”

Project
- “If I was a fish, I think I would want to hide under the rock at the bottom of the tank.”

Say less and stress
- Let’s put your hat on. Michael. OK? Put your hat on?

Go slow and show
- This juice is made from apples.
- The apples are crunchy. Chew them slowly.

Expand on what the child says
- “Mmm, these apples are yummy!”

Label with a variety of words
- “Yummy!”

Some ways to comment
- Observe what child is saying
- Repeat with questioning tone
- Explain you don’t understand and encourage child to try again

Some ways to join in and play.