

# Withholding

*to increase language*

If your child has several words, but isn't using them independently, try using the withholding strategy. Withholding is a simple strategy where you intentionally wait before you give him something until he communicates with you.

You know your child so well that you can anticipate most of his needs. Sometimes this limits the verbal communication your child needs to use throughout the day. When your child points to what he wants, look at him and say "tell me what you want". Then wait and see if your child responds. If he doesn't respond you can give a verbal model, i.e. "say milk". Once your child responds verbally, give him what he wants. This strategy only works if your child has demonstrated that he has that word in his vocabulary.

## Let's Practice!

Get your child engaged in an activity. Grab a laundry basket and a ball. Start shooting the ball into the basket. Be silly and make it fun. Once your child is really excited and engaged, grab the ball and hold it. Withhold the ball until he asks for it saying "ball" or "my turn".

