

Following Directions

- Make sure you have eye contact with your child before giving a direction.
- Initially pair gestures with your verbal direction: (point to the chair when you say 'sit', point to your hand as you say 'give it to me').
- If your child does not follow the direction, model the action for them to imitate.
- If your child does not follow through with the direction, use hand/over/hand assistance if he/she will allow you to help them.
- Keep a list of functional directions that your child can do: (come here, give it to me, sit down, throw it away, put it in, put it on). Then you will know what new directions to add.
- Keep adding directions to your child's repertoire – (touch your eyes, turn around, jump).
- Once your child is able to follow one-step directions with good accuracy – add another step for related two-step directions (get the paper and put it in the trash, get your cup and put it on the table).
- Once your child is able to follow two-step related directions – try two-step unrelated directions which require more advanced receptive language skills paired with memory skills (touch your head then turn around, sit down then clap your hands).