

# Chatting Together

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Key messages about early interactions that build language and communication for parents, carers and the early years workforce

## Getting Ready to Chat Together

Let's chat and play everyday.

Help me to tune in by putting your phone away and turning off the TV.

If I nap with a dummy, put it away when I am alert.

Be sure to use your home language or languages.



# Chatting Together Bump to baby



**listen,  
watch and  
respond to  
me**

**use a sing  
song voice**

**our best  
place is  
face to  
face**

**copy my  
sounds,  
funny  
faces and  
gestures**



# Chatting Together – Bump to Baby

listen, watch and respond to me

I can't talk yet, but I have lots to tell you.

Pay attention to my facial expressions, sounds and wiggles to find out how I am feeling or what I need.

Help me settle with a calming lullaby or chat to me about what I am doing.



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BBC TINY Happy PEOPLE



# Chatting Together – Bump to Baby

use a sing song voice

I can recognise your voice before I'm born. Finding quiet times to chat, sing or tell me stories helps me feel happy and safe.

Help me to tune in by using a sing song voice that goes up and down.



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BBC TINY Happy PEOPLE





# Chatting Together – Bump to Baby



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our best place is face to face

Be at my eye level to help me to see you, and so you notice how I am feeling.

Use smiles and a gentle voice to hold my attention. I might look away, but that's OK, I'll come back.



# Chatting Together – Bump to Baby

copy my sounds, funny  
faces and gestures

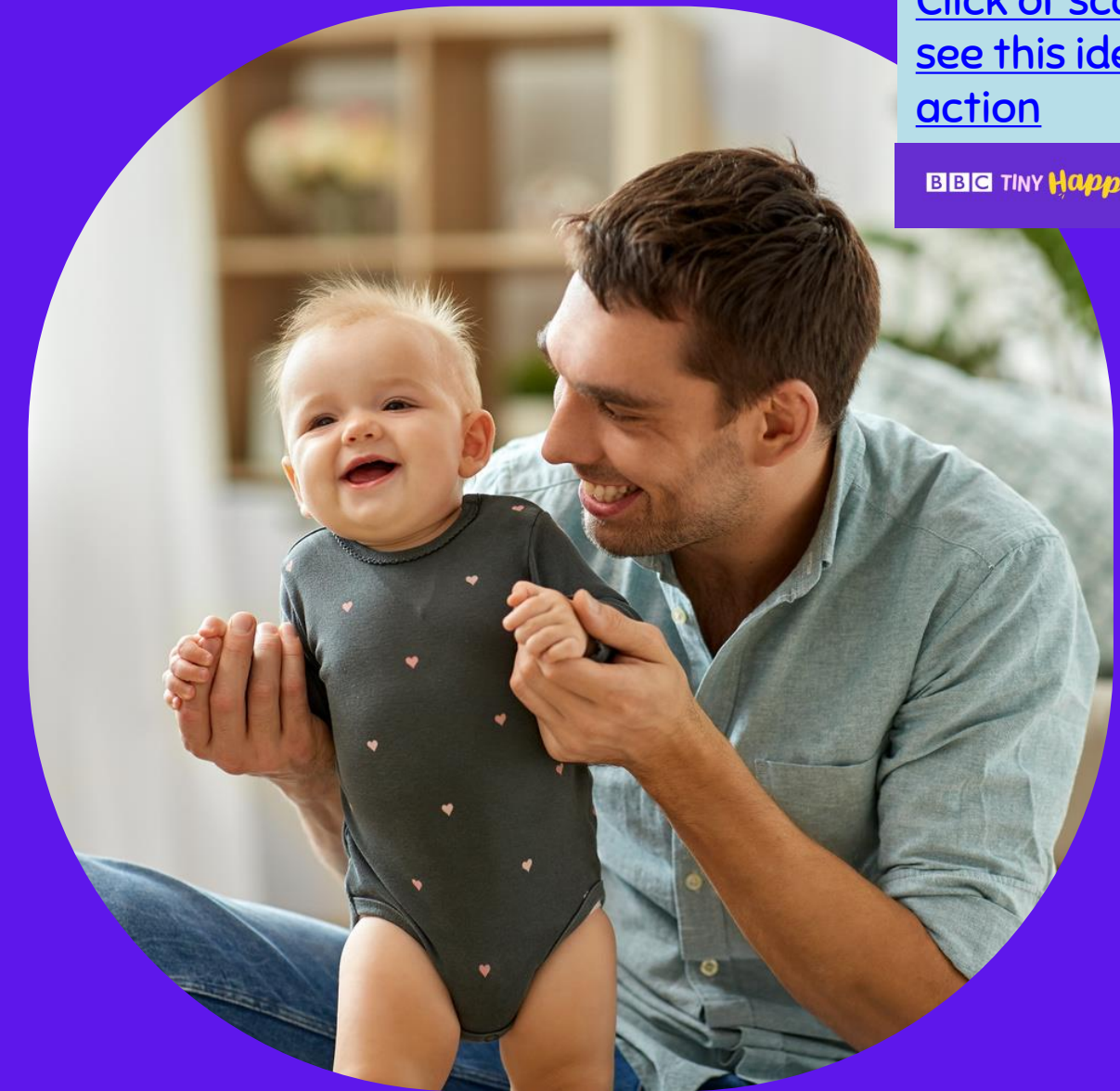
When you copy me, I notice you are listening and that you want to keep the conversation going.

I love it when you make me laugh by copying my gestures and gurgles, then pausing for me to take another turn.



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Getting Ready  
to Chat  
Together



Let's chat and play everyday.

Help me to tune in by putting your phone away and turning off the TV.

Be sure to use your home language or languages.



# Chatting Together

## Toddlers and young children

get down  
to my level

watch and  
wait  
before  
joining in

copy my  
sounds or  
words and  
add a bit  
more

talk to me  
about  
whatever  
we're  
doing



# Chatting Together – toddlers and young children

## get down to my level

Be down at my level so you can clearly see my face and I can see yours. Pay attention to notice what my facial expressions, sounds and words are telling you.



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# Chatting Together – toddlers and young children

## watch and wait before joining in

I love it when you play alongside me,  
letting me take the lead.

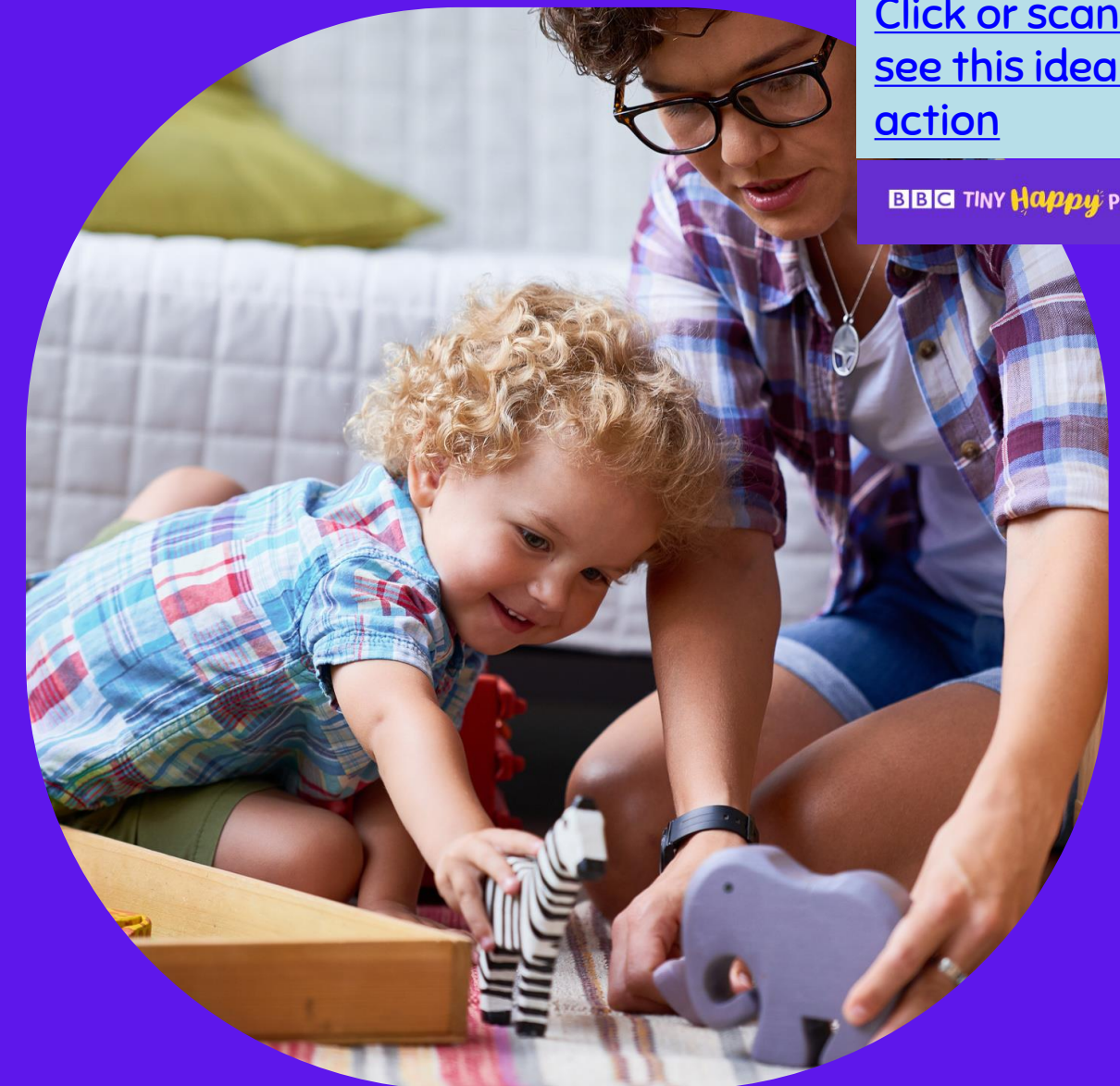
Watch and wait to see how I choose to  
play and what I am interested in.

Join in by making a comment or taking a  
turn. Give me plenty of time to respond.



[Click or scan to  
see this idea in  
action](#)

 TINY **Happy** PEOPLE





# Chatting Together – toddlers and young children

copy my sounds or words  
and add a bit more

When you repeat what I say, I know you are listening and it helps to keep the conversation going. Your longer sentences help me to learn new words.

Don't worry if I can't say all the sounds correctly just yet.



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# Chatting Together – toddlers and young children

## talk to me whatever we are doing

Chat with me about whatever we are busy doing, whether I'm getting dressed or walking to nursery.

Try to comment instead of asking questions. Give me time to take a turn, with or without words.



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