Kimochis®

building a school-to-home connection

HOMELINKS WEEK 6

Key 1

This week, your child learned the first Kimochis® Key to Communication: **Get someone's attention**. Your child learned that when we want to get someone's attention, it is important to call that person's name. This alerts the person to look. If your child waits for the person to look or make eye contact before speaking, it increases the odds that the people communicating will really listen to each other. Sometimes calling someone's name is not enough. Your child learned to use a gentle tap on the shoulder to get attention. When your child knows that the listener is ready to listen, the likelihood of having a positive connection is increased. These are the **three communication habits** your child learned:

1. Call the person by name.
2. Wait for eye contact before speaking.
3. Use a Communication Tap (a gentle tap on the shoulder two or three times) to gain attention or eye contact. Now it's time to speak because we are both focused on the communication interaction.

See reverse for ways your entire family can learn from this week's lesson!

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Common Language

Eye contact: Looking at others' eyes when listening and talking
Communication Tap: A light, gentle tap on the shoulder of another as a way to get their attention

Coach Key 1 During Daily Activities

- Practice with your child. Don't make eye contact when your child speaks until he/she calls your name. Say, *"Oops, you forgot to call my name to get my attention."* Turn and make eye contact when your child calls your name.
- Show your child that you will use these communication habits by being in the same room as your child, calling his/her name, and waiting for eye contact before speaking.
- Show respect by waiting to get your child's attention if they are speaking to someone and/or focused on something. Stand near so your child notices you and say, *"Jamal, I see you are coloring. Is this a good time to talk about our day?"* Clearly, if you need your child's attention, get it. But children learn by observing, so modeling respect through the use of these communication habits is an indirect way to teach your child to use them.
- When children start to use the Communication Tap, acknowledge them directly: *"I just noticed that you used the Communication Tap when someone cut in line. That worked nicely!"*
- Smile and compliment your child when he/she uses the new communication habits effectively.
- You can also encourage eye contact by having your child tell their story to your eyes. You can prompt your child by saying, *"Tell Mommy's/Daddy's eyes what happened on the playground."*

Family Fun: Playful Ways to Practice

- **SHARE THE STORY OF ONE'S NAME.** Children love to hear stories. Share with your child how you came up with his/her name. Tell the story of where your name came from.
- **TAKE THE NAME CHALLENGE.** Family members learn the names of people at school. Each week, have your child share the name of one person from school you don't know, then say, *"Hello,* [person's name]*."* In turn, tell your family members the names of people you met that week and how you enjoy meeting new people.
- **FACE TO FACE.** Tell your child that you will make sure you are in the same room and only speak when you have eye contact and attention. Say, *"I might forget because this is something new."* Your child can compliment you when you remember or say, *"Oops, you forgot eye contact."* Smile, say *"Thanks,"* and start over!

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