

Interpret your child's message

- Often children send us messages without words. For example, if your child points at juice they may be sending the message *"I want juice!"*. If they bounce up and down with excitement when they see a dog, they may be sending the message *"There's a dog, I'm excited!"*.
- Do your best to interpret these messages, and say it *like they would if they could*. Then, respond to their message.
- Even if they are not communicating directly to you, respond as if they are. This will help your child realize that they can have an effect on what you do.
- Sometimes it will not be clear what your child is trying to tell you. Be a detective, and take your best guess based on the situation.

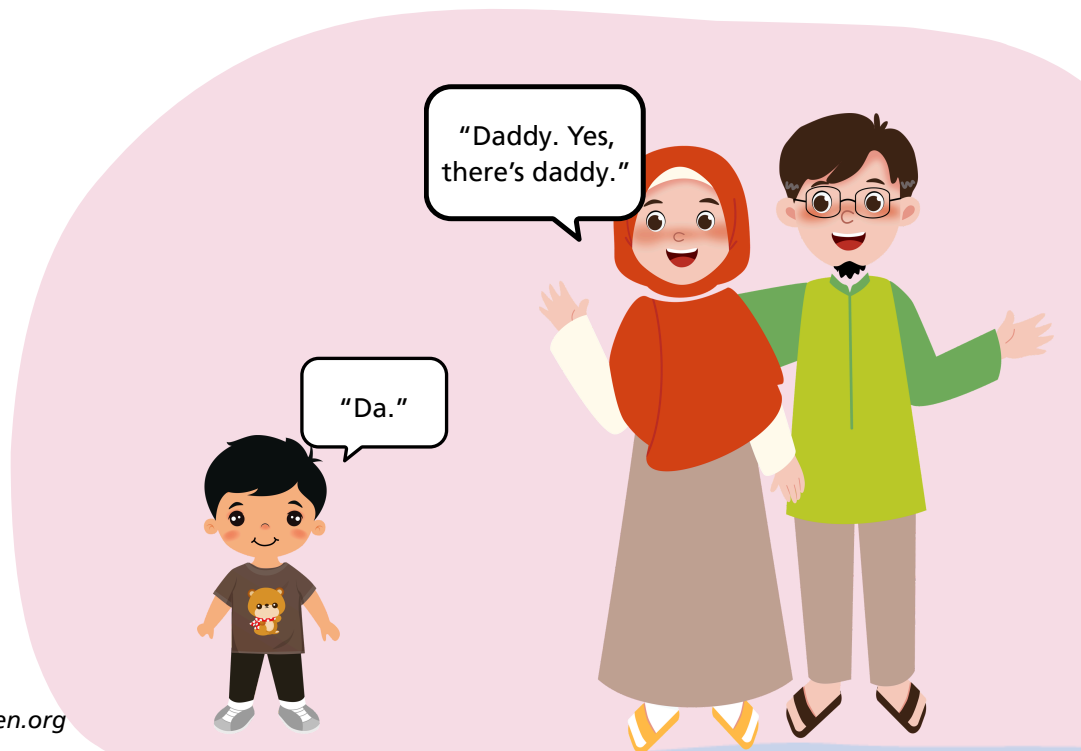
Examples:

If your child picks up your car keys, you may say, ***"Keys! Let's go."***

If your child shakes their cup, you may say, ***"All done. Your milk is all done."***

If your child points to the milk, you may say, ***"More milk."***, and pour more milk in their cup.

If your child says, ***"Da"***, you may say, ***"Daddy. Yes, there's daddy."***



Adapted from the Hanen Centre. www.hanen.org