



## Cause and Effect Play and social communication

Developing cause and effect is an important stage in a child's play, learning and social communication development. This kind of play helps the child to learn that their actions can cause something to happen. When a child pushes a ball down a hole the ball falls, when the child pulls an adult they come. This helps to develop curiosity, shared attention and communication.

The activities below all help to develop cause and effect skills:

Toys you can squeeze and shake (sensory toys)



'Lift-the-flap' books and books that make noises.



Pull and push along toys



Musical toys such as shakers, drums, keyboards and noisy push button toys



Pop-up toys such as a jack-in-a-box, pop-up animals



Toys you can blow like bubbles or a whistle



Stack cups or blocks into a tower and knock them down



Wind-up toys



React to the child's actions and sounds with a fun familiar response, for example, every time the child drops a toy, say

"uh oh!"

*(Think about any sensory needs your child has, e.g. if they don't like loud noises then avoid loud musical toys etc.)*