

Section 1.6

Learning to use gesture to get an adult to make the right response



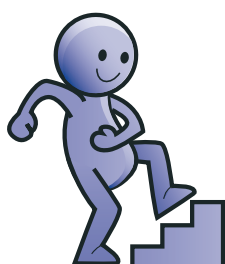
Why is this important?

Children are learning to 'ask'. They might want to be picked up for a variety of reasons (e.g. for attention, a cuddle, tiredness).

What to do

- The child may show that he/she wants to be picked up in other ways (e.g. if he/she cries, someone is likely to pick him/her up).
- Regardless of how the child 'asks' to be picked up, outstretch your arms and pause, encouraging the child to copy your actions.
- If the child copies, praise and pick him/her up.
- If the child doesn't copy, try to position his/her arms into an outstretched position prior to picking up, then praise.

N.B. Always use a word or phrase as you pick up the child (e.g. 'up' or 'pick up'). This helps link the word/phrase with the action.



Step up

- Wait for the child to use outstretched arms, copy the child, then pick up.
- Wait for the child to verbally indicate the desire to be picked up by accepting any vocalisation attempt of 'up'.

Step down

- Use a third person to position the child's arms in an outstretched pose and then you can copy the action and do the picking up.

