

**Anticipation Games**

Anticipation games are great for listening and attention skills and their simple repetitive nature means that children can pick them up more easily. The trick is to take your time and give your child a chance to respond to what you are doing:

**Peek a Boo:** you can play this using your hands or a transparent scarf. Make sure you are facing your child. Place your hand or the scarf over your eyes or head. *Where’s Charlie gone?....... There you are!* Give your child time to respond and allow them to take their turn.

**Tickling games:** rhymes such as ‘Round and round the garden’ or ‘This little piggy went to market’ are great for anticipation. Say the rhyme slowly and pause just before you tickle to look for your child’s reaction. Try saying it fast, loudly, quietly or singing it to gain their attention.

**Bubbles:** once you have blown bubbles a few times for your child, use ‘*ready, steady…. go’,* pause before you say *‘go’* to see if your child is anticipating what will happen next. Use simple language e.g. *pop, pop, pop* and model how to pop the bubbles. Pause and ask them if they would like more bubbles wait for a response before you blow more.

**Balloon:** blow a balloon up and show your child what happens if you let it go. Pause to see if they want it again, they may bring the deflated balloon back to you! Use *ready, steady…. go* and pause to see your child’s reaction before you let it go.

**Wind up toy:** wind the toy up and show your child what it does, wait for them to indicate that they want it again, they may hand it to you, point or make a vocalisation. Use *ready, steady… go* before you release it.

**Push down spring toy:** show your child how the toy works. Use *ready, steady……..go* before you release it. Pause before you let go. How does your child show you they want it again?