

## Expressive Communication Transcript:

Speaker: Hello. Welcome to Friends of Tennessee's Babies with Special Needs website. My name is Robin. Today we will discuss the importance of expressive communication. There are lots of reasons for being expressive when communicating with young children. When we use expressive communication with children we are able to keep their attention longer. This also helps a child focus on the speaker's face so that they can gain more information. Using this skill gives a child additional information and helps the child understand the meaning of your message. Finally, being expressive helps make your communication clearer.

93 percent of the total impact of communication on the listener consists of nonverbal communication. There are many ways to improve our expressive communication: Number one is Touch. We use touch to express ourselves when we show affection or try to get someone's attention. We also use touch to reassure a child. Touch is a wonderful way to express our love and acceptance. Number 2 is Gestures. Gestures are movements that express an idea. We naturally use gestures like "all done" or "wait" with young children. In turn, children use gestures like "pointing" or raising their arms to be picked up to communicate. Number 3 is Intonation. Using interesting intonation enhances expressive communication. The way our voice sounds sends messages about how we feel. Our voice pattern tells a child what kind of sentence we are using. When our voice goes up at the end it means we are asking a question. Number 4 is Eye Contact. Looking directly at the child lets them know that you want to communicate and that you are interested in them. Number 5 is Facial Expression. Using interesting facial expressions along with body language gives information about how we feel. It can be fun to use interesting facial expressions during mirror play and Peek a Boo with babies and during finger plays as well.

Good luck with using these techniques to improve your expressive communication to help a child's language develop; because remember, Babies Can't Wait.