
Ways Babies and Young Children Tell Us They Are Ready to Communicate

Engagement Cues Potent and Subtle Cues

Eyebrow raising
Eyes wide and bright
Facial brightening
Head raising
Feeding sounds
Babbling
Giggling
Mutual gaze
Mutual smiling
Reaching toward caregiver
Talking
Turning head toward caregiver
Smiling
Smooth cyclic movements



Ways Babies and Children Tell Us They Need a Break

Disengagement Cues Potent and Subtle Cues

Subtle Cues

Arms straight along sides
Dull looking eyes
Eye blinks or clinched
Facial grimace; lips pushed together
Frown, eyebrow lowering
Looking away
Hand to eye, ear, mouth
Head lowering
Hiccoughs
Increased foot movement
Leg kicking
Pouting
Turning head away
Whimpering
Yawning



Potent Cues

Back arching
Choking
Coughing
Crawling away
Crying
Fussing
Overhand beating of arms
Pulling away
Spitting
Spitting up/vomit
Whining
Withdrawing from alter to sleep state