

TODDLER CUES

Cues are your toddler's way of telling you what he or she wants.

ENGAGEMENT CUES - Wanting to be with you

(This is a good time to talk, hold, feed, or play with your toddler)

EASY TO SEE

- Looking at your face
- Stilling (stops moving)
- Reaching out to you
- Smiling/joyful/giggling
- Lengthy mutual gaze
- Mouth corners upturned

NOT SO EASY TO SEE

- Eyes wide and sparkling
- Face bright
- Raising head towards caregiver
- Eyebrow raising

DISENGAGEMENT CUES – Needing a break

(Your toddler may need to stop eating, playing or being held. They may 'take a rest' themselves or may need your help to take a break)

EASY TO SEE

- Turning head away
- Crying/Fussiness
- Coughing/Choking
- Back arching
- Falling asleep
- Squirming or kicking
- Pulling/pushing away
- Spitting up/Vomiting
- Saying "No"
- Tray pounding
- Walking away
- Whining
- Halt hand

NOT SO EASY TO SEE

- Turning eyes away
- Fast breathing
- Yawning
- Wrinkled forehead
- Dull looking eyes
- Eyes clinched
- Hand to mouth
- Hiccoughs
- Facial grimace/Ugh face
- Hand behind head/back of neck
- Hand to ear
- Head lowering
- Lip grimace
- Shoulder shrug