

GROWING YOUR CHILD'S  
COMMUNICATION

PARENT STRATEGIES

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# GROWING COMMUNICATION FOR BEHAVIORAL SUPPORT

## **WHAT WE KNOW**

- HOW WE USE COMMUNICATION  
HIGHLY INFLUENCES THE DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE BRAIN
- YOUR STYLE

# COMMUNICATION

## **WHAT WE KNOW**

- GROWING COMMUNICATION SKILLS  
REDUCES NEGATIVE BEHAVIORS
  - BUT WHAT SKILLS?

# COMMUNICATION

## NON-VERBAL

- FACIAL EXPRESSIONS
- GESTURES
- SOUNDS FOR MEANING
- PHYSICAL CLOSENESS

## VERBAL

- WRITTEN
- WORDS WE SAY

# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION

70% of MEANING COMES  
FROM THE NONVERBAL  
COMPONENTS  
(Burgoon et al 2002)



# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION

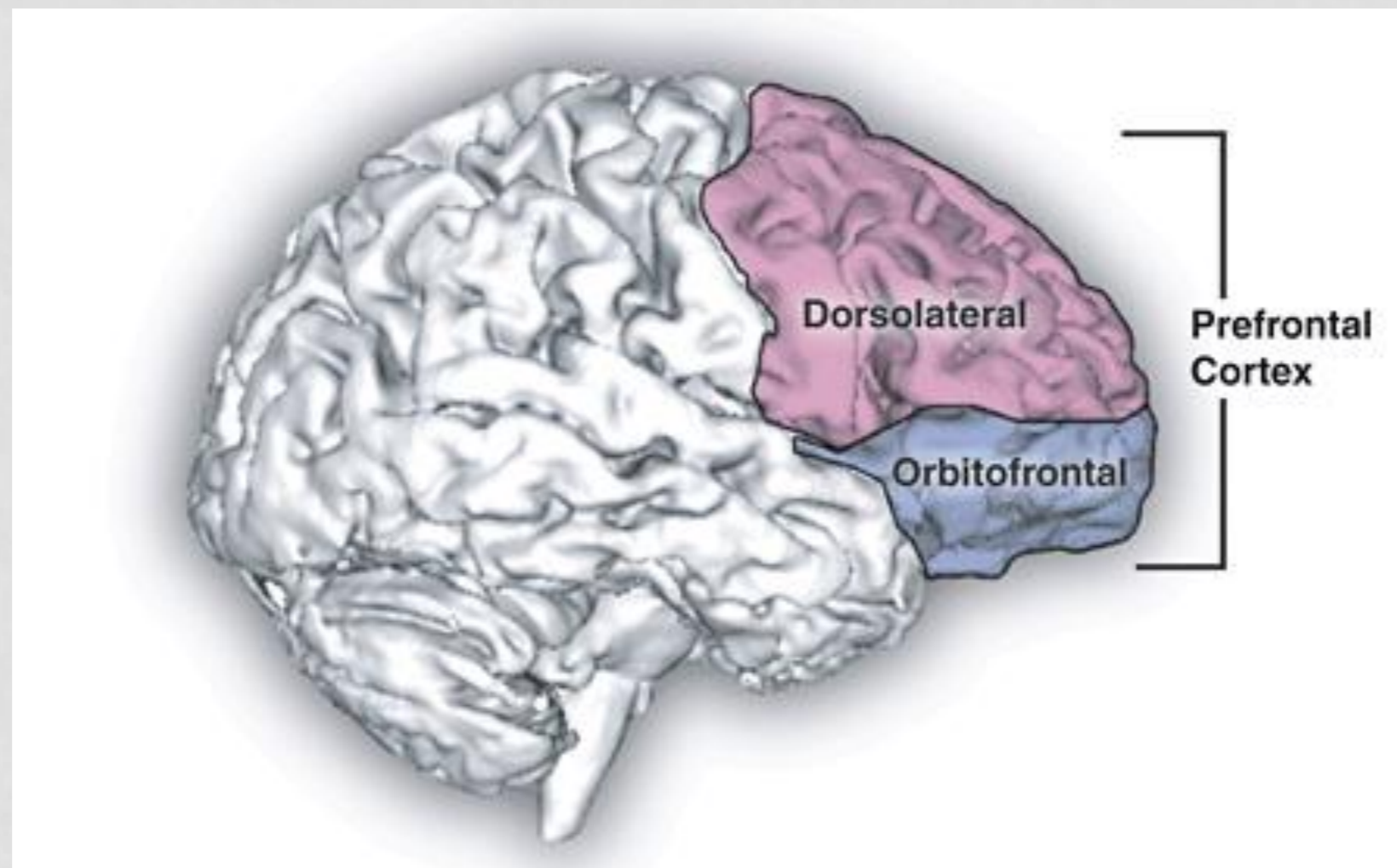
NONVERBAL  
COMMUNICATION IS  
THE PREREQUISITE TO  
INFERENCING AND  
PREDICTING



# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION

THE GUESSING MACHINE?

EXERCISE FOR THE PREFRONTAL CORTEX



# NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION

EYE CONTACT vs.  
REFERENCING

Or

FUNCTION vs.  
PRODUCT





# ELECTROPHYSIOLOGICAL CORRELATES OF PROTO-DECLARATIVE POINTING.

*HENDERSON ET AL., NEUROSCIENCE, 2002*

## Research

- proto-declarative vs proto-imperative pointing at 14 and then at 18 months .
- Proto-Declaratives activate the frontal region of the brain

# COMMUNICATION TYPES

## (BATES 1979)

### **DESCRIPTIVE/DECLARATIVE**

- Sharing emotional reactions
- Comparing/contrasting attributes
- Reminiscing together
- Planning future experiences
- Affirming your emotional bond
- Increasing coordination
- Repairing misunderstandings

### **COMMANDING/IMPERATIVE**

- Obtaining desired objects or information
- Influencing someone to provide a specific response
- Reciting scripted words in response to an associated setting
- Cueing to obtain a response
- Testing knowledge
- Demonstrating knowledge

# EXAMPLES OF EACH STYLE

## **DESCRIPTIVE**

- I'm gonna get you
- We're walking
- I am so tired
- Look, there's a giant spider
- Watch out!
- Something is going to happen
- Uh Oh!

## **COMMANDING**

- Pick that up
- Which one do you want?
- What did you do today?
- What color is this?
- Stop that
- What do you call this?
- Give me that balloon

# COMMANDING STYLE

- They will most likely respond
- “Get the job done”
- Children able to answer direct questions
- Tests knowledge
- Follows directions



# DESCRIPTIVE STYLE

- Children's language skills, vocabulary and emotional regulation increase 10 fold with this style (Tomisillo 1987)
- Uncertainty and Guessing



# REMEDIATION

BALANCING THE STYLES



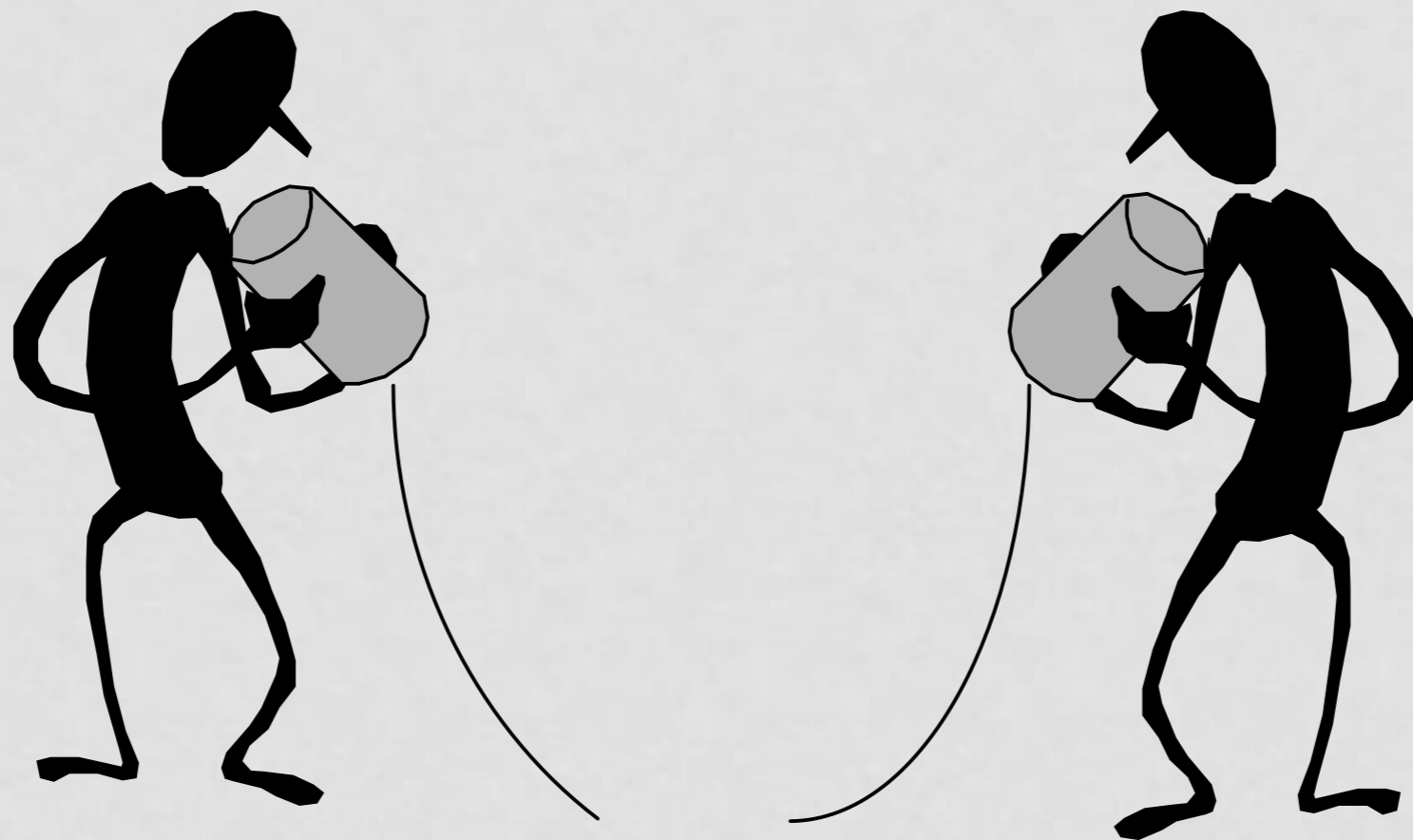
# STRATEGIES

- WHAT WE CAN DO?



# SENDER/RECEIVER

- How can you do this?





# GREAT ACTIVITIES FOR COMMUNICATION

- Eating & drinking
- Cooking
- Bath time
- Taking out garbage
- Laundry
- Sweeping floors
- Gardening/yard work
- Doing dishes

- Taking walks
- Caring for pets
- Putting things together
- Reading
- Organizing drawers
- Grocery Shopping
- Fixing broken things

# VERBING COMMUNICATION

- Brainstorming
- Celebrating
- Clarifying
- Comparing
- Compromising
- Contrasting
- Demonstrating
- Dreaming
- Empathizing

- Joking
- Planning
- Preparing
- Referencing
- Regulating
- Reminiscing
- Supporting
- Teasing
- Wondering

# COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

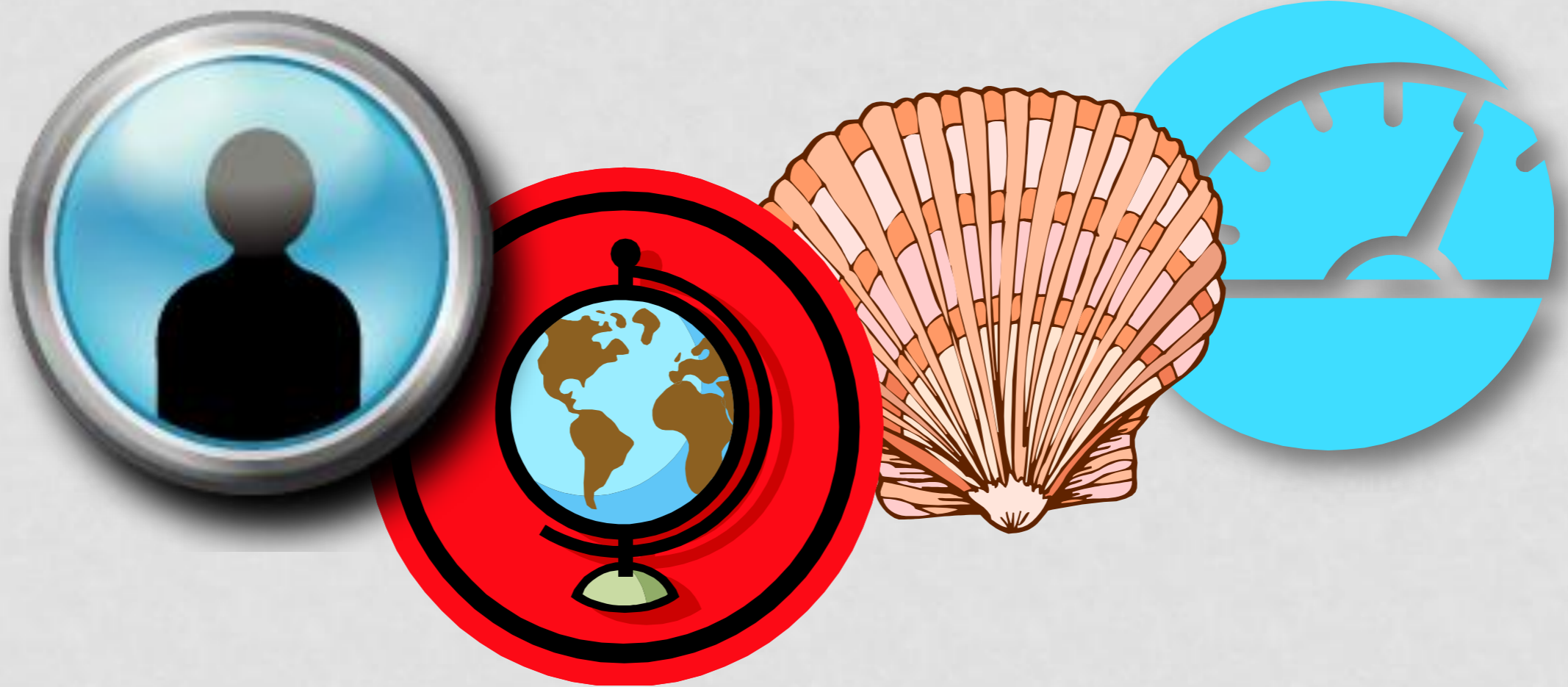
- Do and say about as much as the child.
- Make sure you are asking the child to do something that is below what you think they can do.
- Watch and Wait -Let your child see that you are paying attention to his actions and words
- Make it collaborative each partner has some control

# STRATEGIES

- SLOW DOWN!!!!
- WAIT WAIT AND WAIT SOMEMORE

# ELABORATIONS

- PLOP IT!



# STRATEGIES

- Make sure the child knows you value him not the task
- Lead with the nonverbal then add words
- Balance Your Communication with your Child (Do and say about as much as the child)

# QUESTIONS

