

OWL-ing

The Hanen program was created to educate parents on how to maximise their child's communication development in daily situations and support them in implementing these skills (1977, Manolsen). They highlight the importance of parent's engagement with children, both through verbal interactions and non-verbal communication (e.g. gesture or positioning in play)

The Hanen Program describes *OWL-ing* (Observe, Wait, Listen) as:

Observe: Position yourself close to your child and observe what they are interested in, in the moment (e.g. are they enjoying playing with cars, dinosaurs or dolls?).

Wait: Stop speaking, lean forward and look 'expectantly' at your child.

Listen: Pay close attention to your child's sounds and words, as they bring you in to play (e.g. handing a toy to you, stating 'dino!' or vocalising).

An important way that interaction is built is by playing alongside your child and following their lead, encouraging the child to notice your behaviour and interact with you.

Hanen Early Language Program
<https://www.hanen.org/home>

