



WHAT TYPE OF COMMUNICATOR ARE YOU?

Read the descriptions below and see if you can spot yourself:

The Director Role: This role has the parent leading and controlling a child's daily interactions. The parent does most of the talking and tells their child what to do and how to do it. For example, Robert wants to find the page with the monster in his favourite book but his Dad is playing the 'director role', insisting that they read the book page by page.

The Tester Role: In this role, the parent asks a lot of questions in order to see what the child has learned. But constant testing doesn't help the child learn – a child learns best when he or she is having fun and her parents are tuned in to her interests.

The Entertainer Role: When in this role, the parent tends to take the lead, doing most of the talking and playing, and leaving little opportunity for the child to interact and be part of the fun. However, children need to be actively involved to learn.

The Helper Role: The Helper does everything for their child, from finishing their sentences to answering questions on their behalf. But when parents are too quick to help, they may not find out how much their child can communicate and what really interests her.

The Mover Role: This role may be used by a busy parent who has a hundred-and-one things to do that take priority over communicating with their child. In this role, parents often do not notice when their child is trying to show or tell them something.

The Watcher: Sometimes parents would like to interact with their child but aren't sure how to join in, so they end up watching or commenting from a distance. But to learn language, children need to interact with their parents.

The Tuned-in Communicator: This parent is tuned in to their child's interests, needs and abilities. A tuned-in parent gives their child opportunities to start an interaction and then responds immediately, with interest.

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