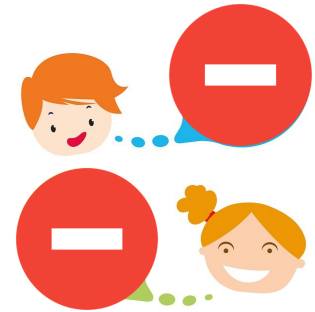


Core Vocabulary Word of the Week: Finished

Why focus on finished?

Being able to let an adult know they want something to finish using speech, sign, gestures or symbols is an important skill for your child to learn to help them meet their basic needs. This word 'finished' lets people know they have had enough, that they don't like an activity or that they are making a comment that something has stopped.



At the end of an activity:

When an activity is over, model 'finished'. This might be at the end of a song or when a TV programme has finished, or when you have finished sharing a story. This could be when snack time is done and you can model 'finished' before putting the rubbish in the bin.

When you know they've had enough

Sometimes children tell us non-verbally they have had enough, such as walking away or pushing away an item to reject it. These are perfect moments for adults to model 'finished' when you can see your child communicate using their body language. Long term, you are teaching your child how to communicate this message in other ways.

Tidy up time

Tidying up is a great opportunity to model 'finished'. As you tidy up together with your child, model this word frequently as you put the toys away e.g. 'puzzle finished.... 'trains finished... 'teddy finished'. Repetition of this word is key to support your child's understanding.



Visual timetables

Try modelling 'finished' between activities when using a visual timetable with your child. This can be through drawings, photographs or symbols.

For more information about using visuals, see our handouts 'Now and next' and 'Visual timetables' under the 'communication friendly environment' section.