

Declarative Communication (the opposite of Imperative Communication i.e. Demands or Questioning)

Declarative communication can be **verbal** or **non-verbal** (like pointing to a ball or holding an injured thumb).

The **less** verbal you are with your child, the **more** he'll reference you.

With declarative communication a response is neither expected nor required. It's quite okay if your child doesn't respond to your declarative statement. For example: if you stated "These oranges are sweet.", we would not expect a reciprocal statement.

Get comfortable if your child does not respond to your declarative communication. The more you pressure your child for a response, the more anxiety he's going to experience. No one likes constant pressure or force exerted upon us. Stop being a Chatty Sui Peng! S-L-O-W down your speech and use shorter sentences.

Strive for a **quality** of communication, not quantity. Get used to pausing for long periods of time between your declarative statements or gestures. If you're quiet for long periods of time, eventually your child will communicate with you on his own initiative, which is what we want.

Examples of Declarative Statements:

COMMENTS

I really like playing with cars.
We went to McDonald's for lunch.
I like the way the water splashes when we throw in the rocks.
That was a really loud noise.
He got hurt when he fell.

DECLARATIONS

Today is my birthday.
I am going to try and win.
I don't like when he yells.
We won!
I want to play cowboys.

PREDICTIONS

I bet the red car wins.

The rabbit is not paying attention, so probably the turtle will get there first.

Today is Tuesday, so I bet there is pizza for lunch. I think Daddy is really going to like this!

REFLECTIONS

It was really nice of Ms. Smith to give us a treat.

You made a colorful picture.

He is a super fast runner.

I liked when we clapped at the same time.

That was a really good one!

I remember when we went to the beach and found some shells. It was such a nice day.

INVITATIONS

What should we do next?

We could play cars next...

I can make mine go super fast!

Would you like to play with my race cars?

(declarative if it is ok for the answer to be no)

ATTEMPTS AT REGULATION

Hey, that one was too fast for me.

You forgot about me!

I would like a turn.

Jack looks like he wants to try.

SELF REGULATION

I can do it!

I need to slow down and try again.

If he gives me a turn, I will try it.

Oops! I forgot to give that to her.

SHARED NARRATIVE

That's so funny, I wonder what will happen next.

First you went down the hill, now here comes the cars!

If the monster is in there, what should we do?

How could we surprise Daddy for his birthday?

ENTHUSIASM

Woo! We did it!

We are awesome!

Ouch! That hurt!

Oh, I am so scared!

SUPPORT

You can do it!

She is a really good basketball player!

You'll get it next time!

Can I help you with that?

SELF NARRATIVE

When the monster popped out from the bean bags, I threw a ball at him!

After we went to church, we had eggs for breakfast. I liked them.

Before I come inside, I will take off my shoes and hang up my jacket.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are going to the park today.

You did a great job on your spelling test.

I would like some ice cream.

My favorite color is green.

PERSPECTIVE SHARING

I don't like Scooby Doo.

Going on the swings makes my tummy feel funny.

That book was hard to read.

It scares me when the dog barks.

“DECLARATIVE QUESTIONS”

If you already know the answer and do not expect an answer from him the question is not declarative. It's an imperative because a response is required.