 **TAP TAP BOX**

****A tap tap box is a 1:1 or small group activity to develop attention and listening skills. A tap, tap box activity will help develop early skills such as waiting, turn taking and anticipation as well as early language/communication skills and social skills.

**What you will need**

* A small box with a lid to pass round the group. The box should be easy to open, a shoe box is ideal. It sometimes helps if the box is colourful or covered in bright paper / materials this can make it more interesting and tactile.
* A selection of objects – Depending on the number of children partaking in the activity ensure there are enough objects in the box for each child to have 2 turns each, if using with one child start with 3-4 objects. When you first use the tap, tap box use objects that are highly motivating to the child. This will help peak the child’s interest and help introduce the rules of the game before moving onto more complex objects/topics.
* A quiet space away from the main area would be ideal. Cushions or sitting mats for children to sit on may also be helpful.

**Tap Tap Box Activity**

The object of the activity is for a child/children to sit and take turns to open the box, then take something out to name and/or talk about, demonstrate use etc. They have to listen for their name in a song giving opportunity to build up anticipation/excitement about what’s inside!You should plan to include the child/ children two or three times a week, for up to 5 minutes depending on the child’s levels of attention and interest. Following the same format each time for consistency, this well help the child understand what is going to happen and what is expected of them. Gather the child/children around the box and ask them to put their hands on the box ready to tap as they sing/chant. Makaton can be used alongside the words to support speech.

*Tap Tap the box*

*What’s in the box?*

*......... (name of child) ,......... (name of child)*

*What’s in the box?*

Make it exciting using the intonation in your voice. The more interested and excited you are the more they will be. The child opens the lid. Takes out an item and explores/names/talks about (depending on development) what they have taken from the box. Otherwise the adult can name the item and model what it can do.

**Top Tips**

* Remember you may have to introduce this activity 1:1 before gradually having a small group.
* You could use topic based everyday items e.g. if you are doing a topic ‘all about me’ you could have items related to self-care e.g. brush, toothbrush flannel, soap etc. Other suggestions include:
* Sensory toys - *(light up toys, spinners, spiky ball, bubbles etc)*
* Animals - *(horse, pig, cow, dog, cat etc) and noises miaow, moo, woof, neigh*
* Musical Instruments - *(drum, rattle, bell etc) and actions such as bang shake rattle tap noisy*
* Parts of the body - *(Mr Potato head)*
* Nursery rhymes - *(star, boat, spider, teddy etc) and do the actions for Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, Row Row your Boat, Incy Wincy Spider. Round and Round the Garden*