



## PACE – Sentence Starters

### PLAYFULNESS (matching the child's affect)

- I'll take that as a...
- Was that you trying to say hello/goodnight/goodbye?
- That was some really colourful language you've used there! I know you know other words though!
- Every time you call me a.... I imagine you're saying....because...isn't a word I like!
- I much prefer it when you...!

### ACCEPTANCE (meeting the child where they are at, no judgement)

- Thanks for telling me...
- If you think .... That must be really hard for you
- I feel sad that you experience...
- I'm glad you told me....
- I'm sorry you think that I....

### CURIOSITY (openness – not making assumptions about the child's behaviour or intentions)

- I Wonder...
- I'm thinking you might be.... Is that right?
- Do you think it's because....?
- Why do you think....
- What was that like.....?
- Are there times when.....?
- What happens when.....?
- I'm wondering if you might be feeling....?

### EMPATHY (Feeling with the child...)

- It must be so hard...
- You seem to really want to...
- I know it's really disappointing that you can't go/do...
- It's so difficult when you try really hard and....
- I'm worried you feel...
- I feel sad that you...
- It's really difficult to be told that you can't/have to....
- I'm so sorry that you've been feeling....