



Communication and Language:

- Acting out stories and situations (using masks and puppets); modelling the use of language extending their understanding of the world (in your home language);
- Singing songs and rhymes together;
- Listening and dancing to music;
- Having conversations, e.g. about different topics; talking through activities at home, e.g. cooking and baking;
- Playing alongside your child when they are playing with small world toys and telling stories (role-play);
- Playing board games as a family.** *(Remember that by letting your child take the lead in a game, they will gain confidence in communicating and feel that they are in control, so be relaxed in the communication environment.)*

E.g. Have a **feely bag** and put something interesting inside, e.g. some sugar cubes, marbles, some flour secured in a plastic bag, a ring, etc. Play a game as a family. Pass your feely bag around and let everyone to feel. Ask them if it reminds them of anything, if they think they know what it is or if they have a thought to share. They could speak before they pass the bag on. Model the language- use adjectives, e.g. hard, squishy, spikey, rough, soft, fluffy, etc.

Remember **language needs to be fed into a game, role-play**, etc, rather than trying to encourage the child to say particular words. This means we don't want to be continually saying to the child 'what is he doing?' or 'what are you doing?' or 'say running, say running'. Children do not learn language this way; children learn language by hearing it first and making associations between the word and the action. As adults we want to just feed language in at appropriate times and always model it in a sentence.

Reading:

- Reading aloud to your child and talking about the story line, characters and events in the story.
- Reading poems, comics, recipes or magazines.

If English is not the language your family speaks at home, enjoy sharing books written in your home language. It's great for children to hear stories and rhymes in the language that is spoken at home. Children are much better than adults at dealing with two languages.

When reading a story you can:

- Point to and read the title; ask your child to guess the content of the book from the front cover illustration; name things and talk about the pictures.
- Explain the meaning of words from the book/story/newspaper.
- Ask your child to retell the story in their own words referring to the pictures. Please help them along. Make it fun.**
- Your child could draw pictures of favourite parts of the story or the characters from the story. Please use the scrapbook provided.

Mark Making/Writing: Some tips for mark making at home with your child:

- Play with sticks in mud in your garden;
- Draw pictures and make marks with your finger on steamed up mirror during bath;
- Involve your child in 'real' life writing, e.g. writing a birthday card, note for granny, a 'don't-forget' note to stick on the front door, a shopping list or marking important dates on the calendar. KEEP IT REAL;
- Help peg the washing out;
- Do lots of threading, e.g. cheerios on uncooked spaghetti
- Build with Lego or other push in blocks to reinforce to strengthen their hand muscles (dexterity and fine-motor skills);
- Let them help you to knead dough in the kitchen to strengthen their hand muscles.

Early Maths:

- Make patterns with beads, buttons and small toys.
- Sort toys according to colour and size
- Lots of daily counting and practical counting, e.g. to count steps as you climb stairs, number of flowers in the garden, fingers and toes while singing; how many red cars whizz past the window and so on.
- Count blocks when you make towers, build with blocks to practise 3D perspectives
- Play matching games

Children learn best through real life experiences so when we build on those to create more learning at home, they can be just as practical, tactile and enjoyable.

- Involve your child in measuring quantities when you are preparing food.
- Play counting and board games