

## Home Learning 11

Play is young children's learning.

For very young children you do not need to set aside 'learning' time while you are at home. Everything you do together makes a big difference to helping your child to develop. Try to make a game out of almost everything you do. Do not worry if your child does not know all the words yet – just talk about what you are doing together.

**You will know your child's levels of concentration and language best and you need to adapt all these activities to meet their developmental stage and interests.**

### Letters and Sounds: For three- and four-year olds. Name Play

This game will help your child to explore how different sounds are articulated, and to extend understanding of **alliteration** (the same letter or sound at the beginning of words).

Make up a fun spoken sentence starting with your child's name such as:

Ben has a big, bouncy ball,  
Kulvinder keeps kippers in the kitchen,  
Tim has ten, tickly toes,  
Fiona found a fine, fat frog or  
Puja popped into the paddling pool.

Together think up similar sentences for other members of your family or your child's toys. The more fun the better! Most young children will need help to put together the sentences but by learning to play with words they will be increasing their vocabulary and learning to listen for matching sounds.



### Number Rhyme: Five Little Speckled Frogs

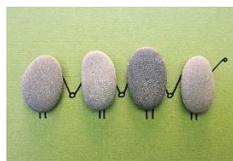
Five little speckled frogs,  
Sat on a speckled log,  
Eating some most delicious bugs.

Yum, yum!

One jumped into the pool,  
Where it was nice and cool,  
Then there were four speckled frogs.  
Glub, glub!

Four little speckled frogs ...  
Three little speckled frogs ...  
Two little speckled frogs ...  
One little speckled frog ...

This number rhyme introduces children to early subtraction. Use objects so your child can see how the quantity changes as an object is taken away. Your child could be the jumping frog. Change the words and maybe use racing cars on a racing track, teddy bears on a chair, or pebbles on a wall.



Four little pebbles small  
Sat on a pebble wall,  
Warming themselves up in the sun, sun, sun.  
One fell into the pool  
Where it was nice and cool.

Then there were three warm pebbles small.

### Shoe Cleaning

Collect a few pairs of different shoes. Talk about the different sizes, colours, shapes, treads and fastenings. Together look to see what is the same and what is different. Match the shoes in pairs and show your child how to add a small amount of polish or cleaner. Model how to polish the shoes. Talk about the changes to the leather or plastic. Together polish all the shoes and put everything away. This activity will help your child to learn about change, to develop their shoulder, arm and finger muscles which will later help with writing skills, to practice using new words and to feel a sense of achievement.



### Kitchen Floor Messy Play

Place a large piece of tin foil on the floor, add a small squirt of baby lotion. Observe how your child explores the lotion. Talk about the marks your child makes and the actions his or her body makes. These are the early stages of learning to write as your child masters control of his or her fingers and learns how to draw circles and lines.



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