

Home Learning 12

Play is young children's learning.

Children first learn to listen, to speak, to sing, to enjoy rhymes, stories, and books before they can read or write. What we often forget is that a foundation in spoken language is a critical stage in the later development of reading and writing skills.

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. Vocal Sounds

This game will help your child distinguish between the differences in vocal sounds and to explore how different sounds are articulated.

Talk about sounds to extend your child's understanding of **alliteration** (the same letter or sound at the beginning of words).

Show your child how they can make sounds with their voice.

Make your voice go down a slide – "Wheee!"

Make your voice bounce like a ball – "Boing, boing!"

Sound really disappointed – "Oh!"

Hiss like a snake – "Ssssss!"

Keep everyone quiet – "Shshshsh!"

Gently moo like a cow – "Mmmooooo!"

Look astonished – "Oooooo!"

Be a steam train – "Chchchchch"

Buzz like a bumble bee – "Zzzzzzzz"

Be a clock – "Tick tock"

This can be extended by joining single speech sounds into pairs such as "ee-aw" like a donkey.

Together make different sounds and talk about what the sound reminds you of. Describe if the sound is

loud or quiet and create vocal sounds for objects in your home.



Straight and Curved Detectives

This game can be played anywhere at any time and is an ideal way to help children to learn about some of the properties of shapes. Together look at any object and talk about all the straight lines you can see. Find another object and look for more straight lines. Talk about curved lines. Hunt around the room for objects with curved lines. How many can you find? Are there more objects with straight lines than curved lines? How many curves and straight lines can you see? What is the same? What is different? This will help your child to develop observational skills and add lots of new words to their vocabulary as they talk about all their detective work.

Kitchen Floor Water Play

Place a baking tray with one centimetre of water on the kitchen floor. Observe how your child fills and empties plastic milk bottle lids or shampoo bottle lids. Talk about your child's actions using early mathematical vocabulary such as 'full' and 'empty'. This play is an early stage of learning about capacity and develops control of the finger and arm muscles.



Ice Cube Play

Together make ice cubes in different colours and liquids. Talk about what you do together, naming all the equipment and your actions. Try different liquids such as water, milk, lemonade and bubble bath solution. Guess how long it might take each material to freeze. How long do the cubes take to freeze and defrost? Add the cubes to your kitchen floor water play. Exploring how water and different liquids freeze will help observation and prediction skills, the foundations of early scientific skills.

Try freezing a toy dinosaur or a plastic toy. How much water might you need? What will be the best shaped container?



Action Rhymes

Peek-a-boo

Peek-a-boo, peek-a-boo,
Who is that hiding there?
Peek-a-boo, peek-a-boo,
Peter's behind the chair.

This rhyme is ideal to play with very young children; however, children of different ages enjoy the anticipation involved in this rhyme. By delaying saying the final word in each rhyme you will create anticipation and children learn to wait. Use your child's name and change the name of the object he or she is hiding behind to help your child learn the names of different pieces of furniture in your home.



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