

## Home Learning 13

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 strong foundation in oral language is critical in developing future literacy 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.**



### Peg Play

Playing with pegs helps children to develop finger strength that they will need when they start to learn to write. Observe how your child explores a collection of pegs. Some children will place the pegs in lines, some children may sort the pegs into colours or sizes. Some children will be fascinated by the movement of the pegs as the pegs open and close. Talk about your child's play and let your child lead their own investigation. Model how to place the pegs on the bottom of a curtain or a blanket. For older children, together make patterns or place the pegs in groups of two or three.



### Jump

Use masking tape, string or patterns on a carpet to create a jumping challenge of big jumps and small jumps. Observe how your child jumps; one foot, two feet together, swings their arms, explores different types of jumps, feet together, feet apart, how far? Add in a hop, a squat or a kangaroo jump. Remember learning to jump is developmental and children will need lots of time to master their current stage of development before moving onto something more challenging. Learning to jump requires coordination, strength, balance and courage.

### Number Rhyme

Singing and acting out this rhyme will help your child to learn about counting backwards and groups of two. Sing this song using objects to represent the sausages or make paper sausages, to help your child see how the quantities change.



### Fat Sausages

Ten fat sausages sizzling in the pan.  
One went POP and another went BANG!  
Eight fat sausages ....  
Six fat sausages

Four fat sausages ...  
Two fat sausages ...



By changing the words to 'giant pancakes' or 'enormous chapatis' you will help your child to learn new words.

### Letters and Sounds: For three- and four-year olds - Teddy Is Lost



Playing this game helps children to develop listening skills and awareness of different sounds. Hide a teddy somewhere in the room or outside. Tell your child they are going to rescue the teddy by listening very, very carefully to the sounds you make. Make louder sounds as the 'rescuer' gets closer to or quieter sounds as the rescuer moves away from the teddy. You could also sing a song or sing some different words to a familiar tune. Encourage your child to pause and listen after a few steps, to encourage careful listening. Delay making a sound for a few moments to help your child practice waiting. If you take it in turns to be the 'rescuer', your child will be able to explore how to vary the volume of their voice.

