

Home Learning 18

Play is young children's learning.

Talk about what is happening in your daily life together, use lots of different words, in different contexts.

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.

Number Rhyme

Singing this number rhyme with your child will help with early understanding of the numerical quantity of two, to understand action words and to listen to instructions. Sing the rhyme slowly, so children learn to wait for the next instruction.



Two Little Dicky Birds

Two little dicky birds sitting on the wall,
One named Peter, One named Paul,
Flyaway Peter,
Flyaway Paul,
Come back Peter,
Come back Paul.

When your child is familiar with the words, add new action words such as 'Hop back Peter,



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crawl back Paul'. Or change the number of birds sitting on the wall and use soft toys to represent the birds. Maybe change the names to include your name and your child's name. Whenever you add new words you are helping your child to extend their vocabulary.



Paper Play

Very young babies love playing Peek-a-Poo behind a piece of newspaper or wrapping from a parcel. Scrunching, twisting and tearing paper helps young children to develop finger strength and muscle control, needed for later writing skills.

Older children will enjoy the challenge of trying to make a piece of paper float by creating an airstream by flapping another piece of paper up and down. What happens when you use a larger piece of newspaper?
Explore together different types of paper. Which is the hardest to tear? Is it a page from an old magazine or a piece of card? Which paper floats the best?

As you play together, describe what your child is doing, talk about your thinking. Remember to try to avoid asking too many questions, and that helping your child to learn to clear everything away when he or she finishes playing is an important life skill.



Getting Dressed Maths

When you are helping your child to get dressed talk about the order that you put clothes on and take clothes off. By using the mathematical vocabulary 'first, next and last' you are helping your child to learn about sequencing and introducing them to the vocabulary of time.



Letters and Sounds: For three- and four-year olds. I Know A Word

Throughout the course of the day play with rhyming words. Say the rhyme and act out a prompt,

'I know a word that rhymes with *cat*, you need to put one on your head and the word is...*hat*.' This can be used for all sorts of situations and as a fun way to give reminders and instructions, while helping your child to learn about rhyming words. Understanding about rhyming words is developmental and children need to hear lots of word play before they can suggest their own rhyming words.