

## Home Learning

Play is young children's learning.

Play, doesn't just keep children busy, it's essential for brain development.

The best thing for language learning is face to face conversation and play.

Watch your child play and talk about what you see your child is doing. A bit like football commentary. This way you are helping your child to learn new words.

Try not to ask too many questions. Ask questions such as

- What is the same?
- What is different?
- How might you change..?
- What will you do next?

These types of questions help children to develop their thinking.

**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.**



### Teddy Bears Picnic

Help your child find a rug or towel, some toys or teddies. Together count how many teddies are coming to the picnic. Decide together what you need for the picnic. Give your child simple instructions to find everything you need, such as "Find 6 small plates" or "Please fetch 2 large plates from the bottom cupboard." Plan together the menu and enjoy play making the pretend food and feeding the teddies. Maybe the teddies will enjoy the story?

By playing together you are helping your child to learn new vocabulary, develop turn-taking, story-telling and imaginative skills.

### Learn A New Rhyme

Singing will help your child learn new words, feel happy, encourages movement and brain development. Try changing the words and using toys to make the rhyme really come alive!

#### Five Little Babies

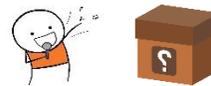
*One little baby  
Rocking in a tree.  
Two little babies  
Splashing in the sea.  
Three little babies  
Crawling on the floor.  
Four little babies  
Banging on the door.  
Five little babies  
Playing hide and seek.  
Keep your eyes closed tight, now,  
Until I say ... PEEK!*



### Letters and Sounds

#### For three- and four-year olds

Your child will need good listening skills in order to be able to hear the difference between different letter sounds when they start to learn to read. Listening together and talking about what you hear will also help your child learn new words.



### Mrs Browning Has A Box

Turn a box on its side with the opening facing away from your child. One by one place between 4 and 6 familiar noisy objects (e.g.

keys, crisp packet, squeaky toy) into the box, pausing to name each object and demonstrate the sound it makes. Sing to the tune of "Old MacDonald's Farm" and use your own name or your child's name.

"Mrs...has a box eei eei o  
And in that box she has a ...  
(Stop and ask your child to listen as you handle an object and make a noise. Take turns to guess what it is. Continue song and imitate the sound using voices)  
With a zzz zzz here and a zzz zzz there..."

### Ready Steady Go

These games will help with waiting and turn-taking. Wait for the word 'go' when having a car race. Build a tower and wait for the word 'down'. Wait for the word 'throw' or 'kick' when playing with a ball. Make it harder by making the wait longer and longer.



### Puzzles

Doing a puzzle involves recognising shapes, sizes and colours, picking up a piece of the puzzle, looking at it, deciding which way is up, where it might go? Learning to complete a puzzle uses lots of skills. Hand eye coordination, memory and imagination and fine motor skills - that's the small hand movements that we all use for doing all sorts of everyday tasks. Tidying everything away helps with memory, matching, ordering, hand-eye coordination and creates a sense of achievement. Try making puzzles from empty cereal packages or old birthday cards.