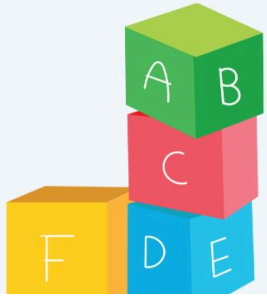


Home-based play to help develop your child's language

Children learn language when introduced to new words and phrases while engaging in play-based and everyday activities. See the following suggestions for using play to teach and model language for your child.



Stacking blocks

Stack several blocks. Use the words, "more" and "up" and count "1, 2, 3" as you go. Use words such as "fall down" and "uh-oh" when blocks tumble down.

Put blocks in a bucket or cup. Use words such as "in" while you do this, then pour them out and say, "out" and "blocks fell out."



Playing with farm animals

Make the sounds that each animal makes. For example, "cow goes *moo*", "sheep goes *baa*" and "pig goes *oink*." Say the sounds first, then wait to see if your child imitates you. If your child initiates with a sound, follow up with, "yes, cow says *moo*", for example, to validate what your child has said.



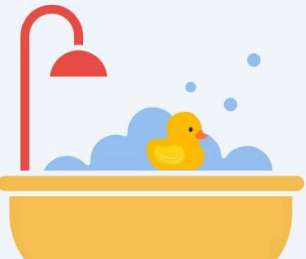
Tea party

Pretend to have a tea party. Use words such as "tea", "more", "more tea", "hot", "cold", "yummy" and "Mommy's tea". Invite others or dolls to the party.



Dress up

Put some clothing items in a basket or bag. Pull out one item at a time and put it on or have your child put it on themselves and label the items: "sock", "daddy's sock", "big shoe", "mommy's shoe", "baby's hat", "blue shirt", "brother's blue shirt".



Bathing

Fill the tub and use words such as "water", "hot", "cold", "bath", "towel", "ducky", "boat", "bubbles", "splash". Combine words, for example "big bubble", "more water", "where's ducky?" "Vroom goes the boat" and "splash mommy."



Other activities

The following are some other activities that present good opportunities to practise language: baking, cooking, laundry, car rides, grocery shopping and outdoor play such as making a snowman or sandcastle.