



Improve Language Development through Play

Let Your Child Lead Play

Let your child know that you are interested in what they are doing by talking about whatever they want to talk about.

- Move to their eye level
- Engage in the activity they choose
- Parallel their play or activity

If your child is touching a doll's hair, then talk about the doll's hair. Copy her actions, and repeat or restate what she says or is doing. Be responsive and acknowledge what she says, even if it's not a real word.

Talk With Your Child During Play

When talking to your child, speak at a level close to theirs. Make language fun! Use familiar nouns and fun sounds, and add new words, such as adjectives to your discussion. Wait and listen to give them a chance to speak.

Talk about whatever your child is doing. For example, "Nolan is building a tower. Wow. What a big tower!"

You can talk about what you are doing, such as, "I'm washing the plates. Now, I'm drying them. All done."

Build Play & Activity Routines

Engage in routines with your child that they will begin to expect. When they know what's next, they are more likely to participate with you. Some examples could be "Five Little Monkeys", "Peek-A-Boo", "I'm Gonna Get You".

It can be fun to leave out something or skip a step of a routine. Children that know the routine like to point out what was missing. If they don't volunteer what's missing, you can ask them something like, "What happen to _____?" You can also use gestures, signing or pantomime in play routines, such as covering your eyes for "Peek-A-Boo".

Pause in Anticipation

Parents are great at anticipating their child's needs and intentions, but don't forget to wait and listen in order to give your child a chance to participate and respond.. You can show that you're waiting expectantly by raising your eyebrows, smiling, or opening your mouth.

Give your child a chance to ask for what they want or need. You could say, "Do you want your shoes?. Then, wait for their response. You could also give them a choice of options, such as grapes or apple, to encourage a reply.

Enabling Children to Reach Their Full Potential