

Playing shops

WHAT YOU NEED

Set up a pretend shop with toys or real things to buy. Have a shopping bag and some real or pretend money.

HOW TO PLAY

Take it in turns to be the shopkeeper and the customer. Use sentences like "What do you need?" "I need soup and beans." Encourage "Hello" and "Goodbye" when the customer arrives and leaves.

To make this game more fun, have some hats or shoes or coats to put on. Children love dressing up and this helps with pretending to be someone else.

PLAY IT A DIFFERENT WAY

Playing with telephones – have fun talking on the telephone together. Use old phones or pretend ones. Use words that toddlers would hear on the phone. "Hello. How are you?" "What are you doing?" See if you can have a real conversation, even if it is for just a minute or two.