

Language and Play

Talking and Playing in Everyday Routines

Did you know?

- Speaking or singing to your child during your household chores will help your child learn new words and routines
- Every baby or child or parent relationship is different - even within the same family.

How does this help / support the child?

- It gives a sense of security and helps them to begin to make choices
- Routines will help children of all ages and encourage them to speak and copy through play

Working together.

Try one of the following:

- Talk to your child about their favourite song, rhyme or bedtime story
- Read, tell or make up a story for your child and encourage them to join in as you tell the story

Activities you might like to try at home.

- Try talking or playing with your child when dressing, making the bed, at bath time or bedtime.
- Share favourite stories, songs and rhymes to go with familiar routines.
- Get your child to join with the preparing and cooking of meals e.g. making chapattis, cakes or sweets.

To find out more about Language and Play please contact: -----

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Early Writing

Did you know?

- Encouragement, praise and interest will inspire a child's fascination with print and make them more likely to have a go at writing.
- Young children who are given lots of opportunities to use felt tips, crayons, chalks, old envelopes and cards become more skilled and confident writers than those who miss out on such experiences.

How does this help / support my child?

- Allowing a child to explore materials with their fingers is one of the first steps towards learning to write.
- Talking about and valuing the marks, squiggles, scribbles a child has made will encourage the child to value their attempts and progress.

Working together.

Try one of the following:

- Provide a range of writing materials e.g. paper, notepads, forms, envelopes pencils, crayons, felts and chalks.
- Support your child in producing a book or drawing

Activities you might like to try at home.

- Let your children share the writing of lists, cards and messages by adding their own marks
- Produce a scrapbook of dated and labelled work your child has produced. Discuss the mark making with the child.

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Talking and Playing - Out and About

Did you know?

- From birth, children are like sponges, soaking up words, skills and experiences that might be useful in the future.
- A background of support from home and school helps a child to learn new skills.

How does this help or support my child?

- Children need to be exposed to as many different experiences for them to be able to recall past experiences e.g. a special visit.
- Children who are spoken to when they are out and about are learning about the world around them.

Working together.

Try one of the following at home.

- Talk about the places you have been together.
- Visit the local shop, park or library. As you walk along or look out of the window of the car talk about things you can see e.g.
 - "Can you see a blue car?"
 - "What colour is the digger?"
 - "How many trees can you see?"
- Draw a picture or write about the items you saw.

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Rhymes and Songs

Did you know?

- Children who know many songs and rhymes when they start school are much more likely to learn to read and write more easily.
- Traditional songs and rhymes are good but singing along to the radio or T.V programmes help also.

How does this help / support my child?

- Hearing the sound of familiar voices singing, humming and chanting will give the child confidence and they will join in.
- Children will gain a great deal of information about language through rhymes

Working together

Try one of the following:

- Sing or say rhymes from your childhood to or with your child
- Sing an action rhyme from playgroup or nursery together
- Make up rhymes together using familiar words or numbers

Activities you might like to try at home

- Sing along to a rhyme CD or tape with your child
- Make a puppet together to help with the actions in the rhymes

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Books and Stories

Did you know?

- It is never too early to read or tell your child stories and talk about the story
- Pictures are a very important part of storybooks - even babies will point at pictures

How does this help my child?

- Parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters can support a love of books and stories long before a child starts school.
- The enjoyment of sharing books is very important when learning to read

Working together

Try one of the following at home

- Visit the library and let your child choose a book.
- Go through the books your child brings home from school and read them to or with all your children

Activities you might like to try at home

- Make a book together
- Use soft toys to tell the story
- Tell your child a traditional story

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