

## Speech and Language Development

### Top Tips for Parents

Have fun playing games. No special toys needed, just use what you have at home and be creative - banging pots and pans when making a 'rock band' together is as much fun as using a toy tea set!



#### Special Time:

Have some time every day with no background noise (TV/radio off). During this time, focus on your child and try to model correct speech, rather than correcting their mistakes.

#### Imaginative Play:

Dressing-up clothes, dolls houses, tea sets, Playmobil, fire station set, etc... Try and join in on their play rather than leading. Use lots of comments on what they are doing and try not to ask too many questions.



#### Messy Play:

Using mud, sand, chalk, play dough, water... Get messy with them and talk about actions, e.g. pour, squash, squeeze, drip, spread, etc. and textures, e.g. wet, rough, slimy, etc

#### Repetitive books:

Read to help them to listen to and enjoy stories. Get them to turn pages and point to the pictures. Don't be afraid to tell the same story more than once - repetition helps the children to understand and remember the words they hear. Let them join in.



#### Puppets:

There's no need to go out and buy puppets if you don't have any - part of the fun is drawing the characters and cutting them out and sticking them on the end of a pencil. Puppets are a great way to develop imagination and storytelling skills. Start with re-telling stories you already know and move on to creating your own stories.

