



Activity ideas to support Learning at Home Early Years Service, Children's Services Buckinghamshire Council

Encouraging imagination

Choose an object, for example a roll of tape, a ball of string, a balloon then ask your child to think of 5 different ways they could use it. Think of 5 things yourself too.

The more you do it, the more creative and inventive your child will become.



Thinking Thursday Communication and Language Week

Construction

When playing with bricks or boxes encourage your child's thinking by asking them if they could build a house to fit teddy or a favourite toy.

How tall can they make a tower and how can they stop it collapsing?

Can they create 'houses' for garden creatures such as insects, hedgehogs etc.

Use questions such as *I wonder.... How do you think.... What do we need...?*



The Weather

Use the weather to help your child to think e.g.

- I wonder how we can stop the snow from melting.
- How can we catch the rain?
- Draw a chalk line around a puddle to see if it gets bigger or smaller. (When the puddle gets smaller the water is evaporating.)
- Can they make their shadows longer or shorter? Can they work out that their bodies are blocking out the sun?

I went to the shops and I bought

Instructions:

1. Sit in a circle facing each other.
2. One person starts the game by saying, '*I went to the shop and I bought*' (they add what they bought here, say an apple) *an apple.*
3. The next person says, '*I went to the shop and I bought a banana and an*' (they need to say what the previous person bought here) *apple.*

How many things can they remember?

Some children will be imaginative about what they buy, and it encourages their memory and listening skills.

When you are at the shops encourage your child to think how many apples you will need for the week or how much milk.

You could also try 'I went to the moon and I took ...'

Story Time

[Eva's Imagination with Karen Erasmus](#)

Share this story with your child, a good one for lockdown, showing how you can have an adventure whilst staying at home.

When sharing any stories encourage your child to think about what comes next or what happens at the end.



Cars

When playing with cars how far can you get the car to roll?

Play with ramps, balancing them on books or bricks to how high or low they must be to get the car to go furthest.

Can your child guess how far the car will go?

Use words such as *highest, lowest, furthest, distance, measure, longest, guess.*



Communication and Language

30-50 months

Listening and Attention

You might notice that your child can:

Enjoy listening to stories you tell them & talks about them later. Joins in with their favourite bits, like “Who’s been sleeping in my bed?” when we are reading Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

Joins in with their favourite rhymes and stories and guesses what will happen next.

Stop what they are doing and listen when they hear you talk to them, or they hear the doorbell ring.

Understanding:

Understand questions like “What do we need to cut the bread?” I know it’s a knife.

Understand simple ideas like “Put teddy under the blanket” or “Put the car on top of the garage”. Your child knows what you mean, and I can do it by themselves.

Help you when you ask me to put something away or get something.

Understand questions like “How can we mop up the juice?”

Speech:

Use longer sentences with words like “because” and “and” like “I cried, I did, because I banged my foot”

Tell you about something that happened yesterday, like “remember when we went to the park and came home”.

Ask lots of questions and answer your questions too.

Talk about what we are doing now, and what might happen later or tomorrow.

Sometimes talk like a grown up to make myself clear, like “I really, really need the toilet now”.

Can use lots of words.

Information for Parents & Carers



Find out More

[The Communication Trust Top Tips](#)

[Literacy Trust Multilingual](#)

[BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

[Words for Life - ideas for Parents](#)

[Hungry Little Minds Campaign](#)



Find out more about your Child’s development

[What to expect when – Developmental Guide for Parents](#)

If you have any concerns about your child’s development the first thing you can do is chat to your Child’s Key Person at their Setting.

Top Tips

Children don’t learn to talk by accident. It’s a complicated skill. These tips will help you:

- Say their name first to get their attention
- Help your child to learn new words by using all their senses to teach new words
- Build in lots of repetition ‘Dog, yes a dog, woof woof dog’
- Build on what you child knows and says. Taking turns with babies, adding words for toddlers and phrases for older children. Car, yes it’s a car, a blue car, a big blue car’
- Talk about what your child is interested in
- If your child makes a mistake repeat the words and sentences clearly in the right way
- Use comments and prompts instead of asking too many questions. ‘We’re going to walk to see Granny, up the road and through the park’
- Play around with words and make up silly ones ‘Lucky Lucy loves lunch’
- Give your child time to think about what you have said
- Chatting is important, the more you chat to your child the more they get time to practice.