

# Games to help communication skills

All games and activities can be used to help to develop your child's communication skills. Below are a range of everyday games and play activities and you can help your child's communication during that activity.

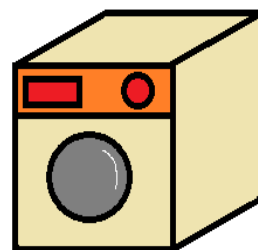
- Skittles

Skittles is a great game to help to develop turn taking skills, which are key skills needed when having a conversation. Children will need to wait for each child to have their turn and can help to build social relationships. During the game encourage each child to watch what the other is doing and remind them of whose turn it is.



- Pretend Play

Home corners such as pretend kitchens are a great way at helping children to develop their words and copy what they see you doing every day e.g. Cooking dinner, washing up etc. When doing this activity try to name the objects that your child uses e.g. "spoon", "dinner" and describe what they are doing e.g. "Pouring", "stirring" to help them to learn their action words.



- Parachute Games

Using either a parachute or a large sheet can help children's listening skills and help them to learn action words. Encourage the children to lift the parachute up "high" and then "down low", to shake it "fast" and to shake it "softly". For older children you can also lift it up high and ask children who are for example "wearing blue" to run underneath. Children will often become very excitable during this game so they may need reminding to listen well and to be careful!

- Musical Instruments

Musical instruments are another great way at helping to develop listening and attention skills. Teachers often shake a tambourine to get their classes attention or put on music to signify tidy up time. As well as this try giving each child an instrument and encourage them to play them in different ways e.g. "quietly", "loudly", "fast" and "slow". For older children you can also encourage them to copy a beat which relies on very good listening skills.



Let's  
Start  
to Talk



- Books

Books not only encourage listening skills but can also help to develop your child's ability to recognise objects and their naming skills. Try simply pointing out pictures within books to your child and name it for them and ask them to try and find certain pictures on a page. For older children on some occasions instead of reading the book ask them to describe what is happening on each page. They may need leading questions such as "whose that" and "what are they doing" to help prompt their sentences.

Hint! When looking at books with your child try to ensure that you are able to see their face rather than having their back to you. This will enable you to see what they are looking at and allow them to see your face when you are talking to them.

- Helping out around the house

Encourage your child to help you during activities such as washing up, planting flowers, washing the car etc. These activities are great at helping children to learn about sequences (e.g. we put the seeds in the pot, cover with soil, water and watch grow) and to learn a range of naming words, doing words and describing words such as "washing", "flower", "growing", "watering", "wet", "squidgy".



- Messy Play

Messy play although very messy is a really fun way that allows children to learn about how things feel and to learn yet more doing words and describing words. Why not try allowing your child to play with a washing up bowl full of shaving foam or gloop (cornflour mixed with water) or doing finger painting. During the activity describe what your child is doing and how it feels e.g. "slimey", "wet", "soft".

Remember children learn best when they are having fun. No matter what play activity you are doing, your child will be able to develop an understanding of how things work, learn sequences and learn a range of words.

