The slogan is “fun to play, not to eat”. However, Play-Doh can be used to feed your child’s language abilities and if you don’t have any, you can make your own. There are lots of recipes online.

Try this simple activity to improve your child’s ability with following instructions.

Work on **sequential language** but making something with Play-Doh — a cat, cookie, pizza, etc.

Retell the steps in sequence. Encourage child to talk about first, next and last.

Practice following a recipe. Make your own Play-Doh - there are many easy recipes online. Give your child directions, e.g. “Pour the salt in the bowl”, “stir the dough with your spoon”.

Make Play-Doh cookies - give specific decorating instructions, e.g. “Roll some pink playdough into a ball and put on top of your cookie”.

You could work on the concept of size with this simple activity.

Make 2 different sized playdough balls and then ask child “Find the BIG ball” or “Find the LITTLE ball.” Also practice LONG and SHORT by making 2 different snakes.

You could also make a TALL tower of Play-Doh.

Using some household items to work on **prepositions**. Get your child to put their Play-Doh creations; in, on, under, in front of, behind, etc. For example, “Make a snake and put it under the cup.”

Work on **vocabulary** by giving your child directions that contain a variety of verbs e.g. squeeze, roll, smash, cut, push, press, squash, etc.

For example, “Roll out your Play-Doh”, “Squeeze the playdough into balls”, “smash the playdough balls with your hand”, etc.

You can use Play-Doh to encourage your child to expand **language** by requesting dough by colour, ask for implements, etc. e.g. “I want blue dough”, “More dough please”, “Can I have the rolling pin?”

It is often best for adult to model the language many times while playing alongside the child and taking turns and sharing the materials.