

Top Tips for Talking:
Join in the child's play and mirror
their actions



Top Tip 5:

Join in with play and copy the child

Ideas for Developing
Language and Play Skills

Pretend Play



- * When your child is playing ease yourself into their space and use their own interests to promote pretend play.
- * An example of this would be a child building a tower of blocks. First imitate the child by copying what they are doing and gradually model other ways to play e.g. using one of blocks as a car and encouraging the child to do the same.

Some Pretend Play Ideas

- * Building blocks can become cars, lorries, trains, pretend boxes of food.
- * The kitchen chairs can turn into a train, seats on a bus or a car.
- * Pair up the kitchen chairs with a blanket or bed sheet and turn it into a tent or den.



Top Tips for Talking (5)

Join in with the child's play
and mirror their actions



Increasing the skills and confidence of parents and carers in the Early Years to support language development

Top Tip 5:

Join in with play and copy the child

Why is this important?

- ✓ Joining in helps the child to learn from those around them.
- ✓ One to one play with an adult makes the child feel special.
- ✓ One to one play allows you to see how your child's play skills and language are developing.



How can I do this?

- ✓ Follow the lead of the child. This will help their language and creativity.
- ✓ Talk about what they are doing and saying.
- ✓ Avoid asking too many questions.
- ✓ Say the words as the child does things or show an interest in things, e.g. "Yes, it's a dog" or "T-Rex is going to eat you".
- ✓ Don't force them to play with things you think they should be playing with - follow their interests and language will progress.
- ✓ Remember we find it easier to talk about what we are interested in - young children are exactly the same.