

Have a chat

Play

Every day we teach our children simply when we talk to them. The more words they hear the more they will learn. Make comments about what you see, what you or your child is doing and think and wonder aloud. Add some new interesting words every now and then. Play is a great time for new words to be introduced as we can create, explore and imagine an almost unlimited world.

Talk about what you can see:

- A tall block tower
- Soft toys sitting at the table having a tea party
- Red cars ready to race
- Amazing dress-ups and costumes

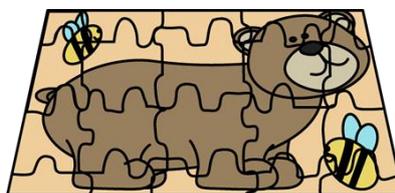
Talk about what you and your child are doing:

- Reversing the toy car
- Making the teddy jump/walk/run
- Building an enormous house
- Constructing a bear's cave
- Creating a picture



Wonder about things:

- I wonder what else we need to make a cubby house
- Imagine if all these teddies were firefighters
- Remember when we went on the bus, let's set one up with chairs
- I wonder what would happen if we put one more block on top
- I wonder how we could pretend to be at the shops



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Play tips

Play can be so many things and range from construction, active play, imaginary play, puzzles, independent play and social play. We can support our children to play in many ways. This can include joining in with their play, finding materials around the house to support their play and talking to them about their play.

Tips:

- Sit with your child while they play
- Wait for them to start the interaction with words, gesture or eye contact
- Follow your child's lead in play
- Make comments about what they are doing
- Expand what they say with new and interesting words
 - Child: "Here comes the car"
 - Adult: "Here comes the fast blue car! I wonder where it is going?"
- Ask questions to build on what the child is doing rather than test:
 - What else do we need to make a cubby?
 - I wonder if there were any other things we could put on the sand castle
- It's okay if your child wants to play by themselves. Join in with your child for as long as they want you to or as long as you have time

