



Developing language through PLAY

These activities help your child to relate three key words together. Key words are the word a child must understand to be able to carry out the instruction. For example, if you are leaving the house and you have put your coat on and you point towards the child's coat and say, "Put your coat on", your child doesn't have to understand any words because all the cues are provided through context (i.e. you having your coat on), the visual cue (pointing at the coat) and perhaps the routine of going out at any particular time of day. Make sure that when doing the activities you have a choice of objects/actions/ places for the key words; e.g., "Put the ball/book/sponge on/under the chair/bed."

With all activities, substitute dinosaurs, action men, spiders, lizards, etc to interest the child concerned!

1. Tell stories with dolls, teddies and furniture. One doll hides things from another. Your child has to help with your instruction;
"Let's put the book under the bed."
"Let's put the ball on the chair."
Then the other doll comes along and asks your child where the objects are hidden.
2. Take two different types of doll or a doll and a teddy. Say that they have been out playing and have become dirty, so they need a wash. Use a sponge/flannel, towel, hairbrush/comb and a toothbrush. Give your child instructions such as,
"Wash doll's arms."
"Brush teddy's hair."
"Dry doll's feet". Etc.
In all these activities, let your child tell you what to do as well.
3. Find some pairs of objects, one big and one small. Use teddy and doll and ask your child to,
"Give the big car to teddy."
"Give the little cup to doll", etc.
4. Use two sets of objects varying only in colour. Use teddy and doll and ask your child to,
"Give the red box to doll."
"Give the blue car to teddy", etc.
5. Use two pairs of doll-size or ordinary furniture, each pair being comprised of a large and a small object. Use teddy or doll and ask your child to make the teddy or doll carry out actions on the furniture; e.g.,
"Make teddy jump on the little box."
"Teddy, sit on the big chair", etc.
6. Cut out picture of animals or use real miniature toys. Use doll-size or ordinary furniture and ask your child to,
"Put the cow under the table."
"Put the dog on the box", etc.
7. Make two paper dolls, one a boy and one a girl. Use some crayons, pencil, paints or felt tips, etc. and ask your child to,
"Colour the boy's nose red."
"Colour the girl's nose blue", etc.

NB. If s/he doesn't know colour names, show him/her something else of the same colour so that s/he can match the colour with the same colour pencil etc

