

Ideas and Activities to Development Language in Young Children

Writing and Drawing

Encourage children to write and draw from an early age. Let them see you write and make your child believe that they can write. Ask them to write something or if they have made marks on the paper ask them what they have written. Provide lots of opportunities for them to write. For example

- ❖ Ask them to make a list if you are going out food shopping and once in the supermarket ask them to read out what items are on their list**
- ❖ Write invitations for a pretend party**
- ❖ Write their letter to Santa**
- ❖ You send them a letter and then ask them to reply**
- ❖ Give them some “Post Its” and ask them to write messages and leave for various family members**
- ❖ Play cafes where they are serving and have to make menus or take your order**
- ❖ They are a Jedi warrior and have to make a list of all the equipment to take onboard their aircraft**

Etc, etc

Using ideas from above introduce your children to different types of writing. For example show them that how a list is written, what a poster looks like etc.

Teach your child prepositions by using the word with the action. I put my cup ON the table, can you see the cat sitting UNDER the table, put your toy on the seat NEXT TO you etc. These are all key words needed for language and maths.

Reading

Share books with your children from when they are babies. Don't just read stories, read information to them about something they are interested in. It will be an added incentive for them to learn to read

Point to the words as you read to reinforce that one group of letters equals one word and also that you read from left to right.

Point to words on signs whilst you are out. For example Stop, Push, ring bell for assistance

When you are cooking tell your child how many spoons they need to add and when they can read some words and numbers ask them to read some of a simple recipe to you.

Making up stories in imaginative play and from books are excellent ways of developing an understanding of reading and to practice language skills.

Play tape stories in the car

Sing nursery rhymes, these are a must to introduce the idea of rhyming words

Set up role play areas. For example a cafe, a tent for



camping,

a doctor's surgery or hospital, a ship, a building site or garage to further encourage imaginative play and extend language. If you can find a story to read that links in with the area that will help to stimulate your child's imagination.

Role Play is one of the most important activities for young children, and a key component of learning. Role play helps children acquire all kinds of skills. It encourages them to:

- Use their imagination**
- Acquire and practice language skills**
- Improve their social skills**
- Solve problems**
- Understand someone else's perspective**
- Explore the world beyond**
- Become more confident**



Role Play Idea- Cafe

You could Use

- Plastic cups, plates and saucers, knives, forks and spoons**
- Play food**
- A table for customers and one to act as an oven**

Play phone
Napkins and serviettes
Trays
Note pads to take the orders on
Aprons
Weighing scales
Cash tills and money
Paper or card and coloured pencils to make menus

Activities

Make the menus and put them on the tables, they might want to put a vase of flowers there too

Measuring out the ingredients

Answering the phone to take table reservations and writing it down in the book

Taking orders and telling customers about the “specials”

Cooking the food and serving it to the customers

Phoning for more food deliveries

Writing out bills

Taking payments and giving change

Clearing the tables and washing up ready for the next customer

Putting Maths and Language ideas together

As parents you will be doing this all the time without being conscious of it. This is just a sample idea of how maths and language skills can be taught and reinforced through play:

Teddy Bears' Picnic

List- what ingredients we need to buy or to gather together

Cooking- measuring ingredients, counting slices of bread

Making sandwiches- cut them in half, quarters

Invitations- designing and making invitations, what time is it, where will it be taking place?

Songs- learning the song for the teddy bears' Picnic

Place settings- matching the plates, cups and saucers to the teddies

