



Play time provides a great opportunity for children to learn new words. You can help your child learn and have fun during play with these ideas.

## Be face-to-face

Be on the same level as your child, so sit if they are sitting, or sit on a chair if they are standing so your faces are at the same level.

## Let your child lead the play

Follow what your child wants to do in play. It's okay if they want to play a game or use a toy differently to the way it's meant to be done. Playing the way your child wants will keep them interested for longer and give them time to learn new things.

## Talk about what is happening

Talk about what your child is doing and what you are doing. *"Your car is going up the ramp. My car is coming down"*.

## Name objects

Name toys, pictures and actions during play, for example *"here's dolly's bed"*, *"teddy's drinking"* or *"build the tower"*.

## Use more comments than questions

For example *"That's a tall tower!"* rather than *"What are you building?"*

## Repeat new words

Repeat new words a few times to help your child learn. *"Pour the sand. Pour, pour pour"*.

## Add a word or two to what your child says

Add a word or two to what your child says, for example if your child says *"teddy"* you can say *"teddy's sleeping"* or *"teddy's eating! Yum, yum!"*.