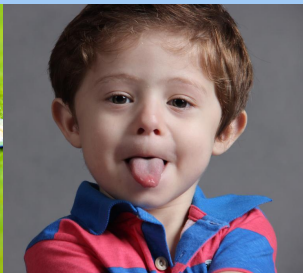




# Language Activity Guide



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## LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Language development is a vital part of communication in the early years. Children start learning language very early on in their development. The best way to develop language is through interactions with your child during play periods. Storytelling, baking, gardening and walks are a wonderful way to start conversations with your child to evoke language development.

Help with new words by repeating them!  
Try adding onto phrases or words to boost vocabulary (For example – Your child says “my ball” and you say “yes, your ball is a big ball”)



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## WHAT'S IN THE BAG?

Place a range of familiar toys/objects into a small drawstring bag. Encourage your child to feel inside and pull out an item to look at and play with. Use simple language to comment on the toy and what the child is doing, for example, if they take a car out of the bag, you could say “car”, “blue car”, if they push it, you could say “pushing the car”, “fast car” etc.



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## **DRESS UP BOX**

Provide your child with a collection of dress up clothes. This simple set up activity will encourage fantasy play and role play. Your child can pretend to be someone else and use new vocabulary in their imaginative role.



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## SAND PLAY & SENSORY TRAYS

Sensory vocabulary is developed through sand play and sensory trays. A sensory tray filled with different objects encourages language as your child touches and talks about items in the tray.

Choose things with texture and different sizes. Mix them up for sorting experiences. Look for things like buttons, corks, pebbles, pasta, blocks and lego to encourage development.



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## CREATIVE FUN

Provide your child with fingerpaint to encourage language and explore colours. It can be messy, but learning to tidy up adds another dimension to your child's vocabulary development.

Stir 4 tablespoons of sugar and 1/2 cup cornstarch together. Add 2 cups of cold water and heat over medium heat until the mixture is thick. Divide into four or more containers, and add food colouring as desired.



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## DIY MUSICAL SHAKERS

Create a musical instrument with your child by filling an old water bottle with dried pasta, beans, small pebbles, buttons or lentils. Once complete secure the lid and utilize to practice listening skills. Try shaking to this new song!

Twinkle twinkle traffic light  
On the corner shining bright  
Red means stop (stop shaking),  
Green means GO! (shake fast)  
Yellow means go but very slow  
(slow shaking)

Twinkle twinkle traffic light  
On the corner shining bright.



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## TELEPHONE PLAY

Set up two toy phones in your child's play area. You can decorate a phone booth with colours, to appeal to your little one's imagination. Now act as if you are calling him and the phone is ringing. Encourage your child to answer the phone. Through this activity, your child will learn phone etiquette and improve conversational skills.



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## BUBBLE PLAY

Blowing, catching and popping bubbles is always a favourite activity for children of all ages. This simple activity will provide your child with extensive language as they play. Try making a diy bubble mixture with your child and use different household objects to blow.

Whisk together - 1 cup of water, 4 tablespoons of dish soap and 1 tablespoon of glycerin in a small container.



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## SORTING

Sorting play provides a variety of benefits - colour recognition, matching capabilities, filing, counting and language development. Provide your child with items of any kind, coloured construction paper or bowls and encourage them to sort by size, colour and shape. Ask questions to encourage growth as your child 'works', such as what the objects feel and look like.



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