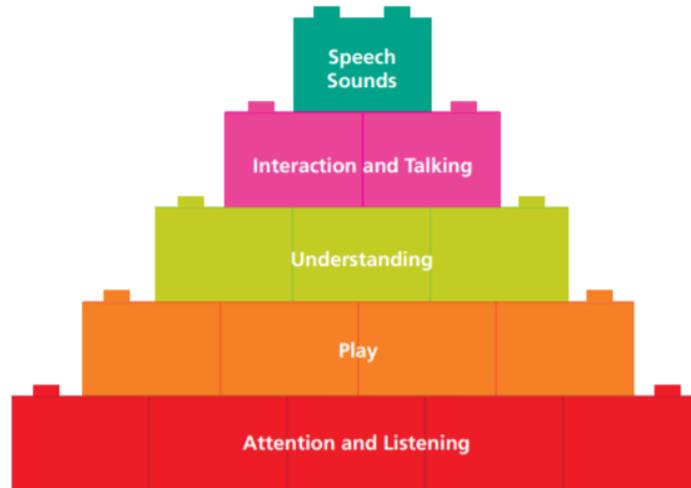


7 Ways to Develop Communication



Being able to communicate is not just about talking. Along with getting your own message across, being able to listen, pay attention, interact, play and understand what's being said are the fundamental building blocks of communication. We need to learn when to talk and when to listen, how to take turns, how to notice if someone is not listening or bored with what we're saying.

Things to try with your child:

1. Spot the mistake

Sing a simple rhyme or song, but make a mistake – can children spot the mistake?

- Incy wincy spider climbing up... a tree (should be spout)
- The wheels on the... train go round and round (should be bus) colour in
- Twinkle twinkle little... hat (should be star)

2. Taking turns

Play any simple game where you need to take turns. Take turns to add a brick to a tower you're building... take turns to play a simple board game like snakes and ladders... take turns to throw a ball...



3. Go games - wait for go

Build a tower of bricks. Your child waits for you to say “Go” before they can knock it down. Have a race – ready steady go... Push a car to each other – ready steady go... Dance around – ready steady go... Roll the ball – ready steady go...

4. Puppets

Do what I say - use any puppet or even an old sock. The puppets give simple instructions for the child to follow: “Go and touch the chair” “Jump up and down” “Find something you can eat” “Touch your head and rub your tummy” egg meat

5. Instruction time

Children need to wait for you to say “go”. When you do they can run around, but must stop when you say “stop” and clap your hands. Play in different ways by having children listen to an instruction, such as “Hop around and stop when I clap” or “Jump on the spot and stop when I bang on the drum”. Dance

6. Shopping games

Set up a pretend shop. Have 4 or 5 things in your shop – they can be toys or real things from your cupboards. Ask your child to go and buy... The beans and the milk. The apple, the cheese and the yoghurt.

7. Treasure boxes

You and your child could make up a treasure box along a theme. You could get some pots and pans, pretend food and some soft toys and get ready for a picnic. Alternatively, get some old jewellery, an eye patch and a treasure map and get ready for a pirate adventure!



Adults play an important role in answering the many questions children have and in checking out whether children understand. Enjoy learning together.