

Language and Play:

The Magic of Play for Language Development
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Play Builds Relationships Relationships Build Language

- * We often remember games and play from childhood, because we shared these with a parent, grandparent or close relative
- * Children learn language through play, when they share play with others



Play and Language: The connection

- * Children Learn Language through Play
- * Children Learn to Play with Language
- * Play helps develop vocabulary
- * Play helps develop listening skills and following directions
- * Play helps develop social skills and turn taking



- * Play and language develop along a similar path. As language becomes more complex, play also develops
- * For Babies: Play means banging objects together, putting objects in their mouth, examining objects
- * For Toddlers: Play means building with blocks, pushing cars, blowing bubbles
- * For Preschoolers: Play means pretending to feed a doll, talk on a toy phone to grandma



The Power of Play

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Playing With Your Child

- * Play face to face: Your child needs to see you to share with you
- * Be involved, not an observer: play at your child's level and share the activity (on the floor playing with the toys)
- * Talk about what you and your child are doing during play
- * Set up play activities so that your child has a chance to be active and to use words to take turns(play with cars: “go”)
- * When you are an active participant in your child's play, you are sharing quality time, while providing important vocabulary and language models



Build Play into Everyday Routines

- * Make a game out of dressing.....what words can you use.....what games can you play(Peek-a-boo can be a time for naming body parts)
- * Make a game out of kitchen utensils.....what words can you use.....what games can you play(hiding objects will give you a chance to teach the words, 'in,' 'on', 'under'.)
- * Make a game out of snack time.....what words can you use.....what games can you play(you can teach about categories of food; fruit, vegetables and also the names of the foods.)



- * Plan a play activity for you and your child to share. Choose something that your child enjoys and your child will want to play
- * What words, word combinations, or sentences can you model in this activity? Give words that relate to what you and your child are doing.
- * How can you involve your child in the play and encourage use of new words?(repeat the words or phrases many times, wait for your child to take even turns with you)



A Play Activity For This Week

- * Plan a play activity for you and your child to share. Choose something that your child enjoys and your child will want to play
- * What words, word combinations, or sentences can you model in this activity? Give words that relate to what you and your child are doing.
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Play and Language: An Important Connection

- * Through play, children learn to develop relationships
Through play, children learn to take turns
Through play, children learn new vocabulary and new concepts

