

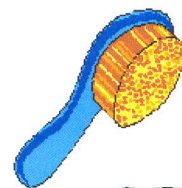


Developing Play Skills

Play skills are an important foundation for the development of language.

First Stage- encourage pretend play with real objects

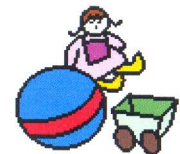
- Before drink time get out the child's empty cup and pretend to drink from it and encourage your child to do the same, and then go ahead with drink time.
- Collect several everyday items in a box e.g. a hat, hairbrush, toothbrush, key, toy phone. Show several of them at one time, pretend to use them and encourage/help your child to do the same. Make appropriate symbolic noises e.g. "mmmmm", or phone ringing sound.
- Use large photos of familiar objects. Help your child to match the photos to real objects.
- Pretend to use familiar objects on a large doll/teddy or a toy character e.g. Peppa Pig. Help your child to do the same either on the teddy or on you e.g. feeds teddy, brush baby's hair.
- Model pretend play with your child and dolly/teddy/character e.g. put teddy to bed, cover your child with the blankets and pretend to "sleep", wash baby, feed your child pretend food, make a teddy's tea party. Use appropriate sounds and words e.g. shh, mmm, snoring noises.
- Encourage your child to copy everyday activities such as sweeping, washing cups, cooking, washing clothes.



Encourage other types of play such as with cars, ambulances, aeroplanes.
Roll the car back and forth, put people in the car.
Make appropriate sounds e.g. brum, beep, nee-nor etc.



Toy libraries or children's centres are a good way to borrow toys that you may not have at home.



Accessible, Responsive Community Healthcare

Children and Families Division
Community Speech and Language Therapy Service
www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk