

Leaders of Early Learning

#KeepGlasgowTalking



Playing, talking and laughing with your children has never been more important. Often we find the best chances for this in everyday activities to help your child to be confident in using language. Here are some tips and ideas to keep your child talking and learning...

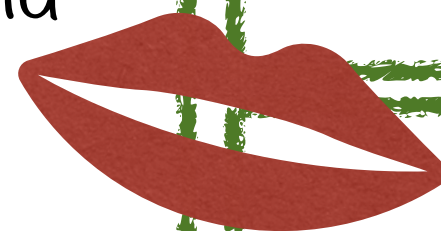
Find opportunities for talk in everyday experiences...

Invent a song for getting dressed, singing what your child needs to put on next.

Make funny faces in the mirror when brushing your child's teeth.

Encourage your child to help with cooking, making snacks and cleaning up...lots of bubbles makes that washing up a bit more fun.

On your daily walk, you will find lots of interesting things to talk about...turn your walk into an adventure and imagine you are explorers.



The important thing is to keep your child happy and chatty.

Have a look at our video for some ideas on how to do this...



Playing

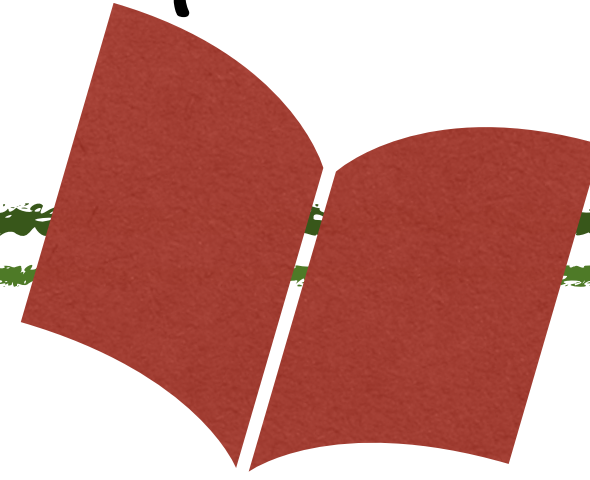
Playing and letting your child use their imagination is great for learning new words and trying out new ideas. Remember that you are your child's most important partner in their play, let their imagination lead the way.

You can create play spaces using cardboard boxes, paper, pens and tape...you could use old clothes, materials and household items to dress up and create characters.



Singing and telling stories are lovely ways to help to develop your child's language skills. Letting your child show you or tell you what they want to do will help to keep them interested.

Here are some ideas you can offer....



Telling Stories

Sharing stories with your child is a great way to help them to relax, to learn new words and to talk and develop ideas...

When using books, talk about the pictures, the characters, and any interesting words. Ask your child what they think might happen next or what they would do if they were that character. Try using the phrase 'I wonder' to get your child thinking about the possibilities...

I wonder how you would feel if you were the witch?

I wonder what the witch might put in her cauldron...

Sharing stories does not always have to be with a book. Share stories with your child from special family occasions or funny things that have happened.

Singing



Singing is great for language development but also for keeping your child happy and engaged.

Sing the songs and rhymes that you and your child know and love.

You can try to change the words around a little to make your own songs or make instruments from pots and pans to tap out the beat.



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#KeepGlasgowCounting



Maths is all around us and is important as a way for children to make sense of the world. Here we share some really simple ideas of how to develop your child's maths and numeracy skills through play and everyday experiences.

Just look for the numbers in everything you do.



We're Going on a Number Walk

Going for walks is an excellent time to talk about numbers with your child. Help your child to become curious by noticing numbers around them. Look out for numbers on doors, buses, road signs, registration plates etc and talk about what they mean. It's not a test so make it fun.

Try these counting ideas:

Let's use our fingers to count how many dogs we can find.

How many stairs are there up to the house?
1-2-3-4. We went up 4 steps.
Let's go back down now and count, 4-3-2-1

How many red cars will we see as we walk around the block?

If we start at ten, do you think we can reach home before we get to zero?

Can you find me 3 flowers?

I think we will see five ducks in the pond. How many do you think we will see?



Laundry Learning

There are lots of opportunities for learning maths when doing the washing.

Why not try some of these ideas:

Sorting - Use one basket for light colours and one for dark colours. Take turns to put an item from the pile of dirty clothes in the correct basket

Matching - your two year old might enjoy finding and creating a pile of their own clothes. Your three year old might like to match socks. Talk to your child about what they are noticing and ask them about how they make a match. Older children can sort in more complex ways such as tops on one pile and trousers in another.

Capacity - Is the machine empty? Half full? Full? Is there anymore space?



Young children learn best when they are playing and taking part in something fun. Here are some ideas...

Brilliant Baking

Children love to join in with cooking and baking and it's a great, fun way to help them learn all about maths.

Here are some simple ways to involve maths learning in cooking:

Count the ingredients in a recipe, one at a time using your fingers.
Ask your child to count out a number of ingredients (2 slices of bread per sandwich)

We have 10 tomatoes, if I eat one how many do we have?

We need to use 3 oranges, how many will be left in the bowl?

Ask your child to find or read the numbers on a recipe.

As well as counting, adding, subtracting and recognising numbers you will be helping your child develop their language of shape, pattern, measurement and understanding time.

And when you are finished you have something yummy to eat.



Check out our videos here...



Playful Puzzles

Playing with puzzles is a great way to develop problem solving skills. Making your own puzzles is fun, easy to do and can be made with the stuff from your recycling pile.

All you need is any type cardboard you have around the house or your favourite cereal box.

Cut along the edges of the picture to make the border of your puzzle.

Flip the cardboard over and use a pencil to make the lines of your puzzle pieces on the box and with scissors cut along lines.

Now you have a puzzle.

When playing with the puzzle, chat to your child about how they are trying to solve it. Pick up a piece and say,

“Look at the shape of this piece, where do you think it will fit?”

“How did you know that piece would fit in that space?”

“Which way do we need to turn this piece so that it will fit?”

