



## Playing is Fun!

### Teaching by Talking

Young children need to learn through play.

Basic principles of adult-child interaction:

- **Follow the child's lead:**  
Allow the child to lead and you follow their ideas and they will enjoy playing with you.
- **Comment rather than question:**  
Describing rather than asking questions helps the child. Too many questions can put children under stress. Turn your questions into comments, e.g. 'What's that?' change to 'It's an elephant.', 'What is he doing?' change to 'The boy is drinking.'
- **Adapt your language to the child's level:**  
Keep your sentences short; use gestures or signs as you say a new word, use lots of **REPETITION**, simplify your grammar.  
E.g. 'It's a sheep.' 'Sheep says baa baa.' 'The sheep is eating.'
- **Expand the children's language:**  
Add one or two extra words to what they have said:  
'Hat' - 'Put on hat.'  
'Hat on' - 'Hat on your head.'  
'Boy' - 'Boy is happy.'  
'Boy eats' - 'Boy is eating a banana.'

Expand their vocabulary by introducing new words in a positive way.

- **Encourage turn-taking:**  
If the adult is taking more talking turns than the child, the adult should try to talk less.

- **Praise** in an exciting way, is very motivating for children.

**Be encouraged** to read relevant books. Reading to children from a very young age exposes them to a different style of oral language. Helps them with their general language development and with the development of reading and writing skills. Play games, visit websites, e.g. [https://www.holidaypirates.com/travel-magazine/13-zoos-that-offer-live-streams-see-giraffes-koalas-pandas-tigers-penguins-more\\_35765](https://www.holidaypirates.com/travel-magazine/13-zoos-that-offer-live-streams-see-giraffes-koalas-pandas-tigers-penguins-more_35765), sit with your child and draw pictures.

#### **Resources that you can use:**

Use toys such as sea, zoo and farm animals to role play. You can make a shop using items from your kitchen and then pretend to buy and sell them. Why not draw roads on a map on a piece of paper (include zebra crossings and traffic lights) so your children can drive their toy cars around. If you have dressing up clothes use these as well.

Whatever you do, try and have fun.

**HAVE FUN PLAYING WITH YOUR CHILD!**