

Therapy Games

Being interested, motivated and engaged is important for learning, so listed below are some ideas to make working on speech and language targets more fun.

It is also important to know why you are learning something so when doing these activities remember to talk to your child about their target and give lots of feedback. For example, if you are working on a particular speech sound let your child know when they have said the sound more clearly and point out what they are doing that helps (e.g. making their lips into a good 'oo' shape).

- **Busy Pictures:** You can ask your child to find/colour all the things starting with a given sound (and then practice saying those words), practice following instructions (e.g. 'find the *small, spotty dog*), practice answering questions (e.g. who, what, where) and lots more!
- **Catch the Ball:** Pass a ball (or bean bag, small toy...) back and forth. Whenever you have the ball, say the target sound or word. E.g. If you are working on the sound 'p', say 'p' whenever you have the ball.
- **Feed the Puppet:** Place 2-4 pictures in front of your child and ask your child to feed one of them to the puppet. E.g. If you are working on verbs you could ask your child to feed the picture of the person *running* to the puppet.
- **Fishing:** Either buy a toy fishing set or make one using a magnet on a string (for your fishing rod) and attaching paperclips to the pictures you are trying to 'catch'. Whenever you catch a picture say what you have caught.
- **4 Corner Dash:** Put a target sound/word in each corner of the room. You say one of the sounds/words and your child has to run to that corner of the room.
- **Lotto:** Make up a lotto board which contains your target sounds/words. Have a separate pile of pictures which match the sounds/words on the lotto boards. Turn over one of these pictures at a time. If the picture matches the sound/word on your board, cover that space on your board. The first person to cover all the spaces on their board is the winner.
- **Matching Pairs:** Place pairs of pictures face down on the table. Mix them up. Then take turns to turn over two of the pictures. Each time you turn over a card say what you can see. If you turn over a matching pair you win those cards. The winner is the person with the most matching pairs.
- **Memory Game:** Show your child several pictures or items. Take one away and then ask them what is missing. You could do this when working on a particular sound (e.g. use pictures of words starting with 'b') or to develop vocabulary (e.g. practicing naming items).

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- **Playdoh:** Make target sounds or words out of playdoh. E.g. If you are working on animal vocabulary you could make different animals out of playdoh.
- **Posting:** Use an old shoe box to make a post box. Each time your child names a picture they can post it in the box.
- **Simple Turn Taking Games:** Play a simple game. Before each turn your child has to say a target sound, name an item or answer a question. Games you could play include: Pop up Pirate, Pig Goes Pop, Rabbit Jump, Jenga, Kerplunk, Connect-4, Shark Attack.
- **Skittles:** Stick target sounds or words on to skittles. Each time your child knocks down a skittle they have to say the sound/word that was attached to the skittle.
- **Stepping Stones:** Place target sounds or words on the floor. As your child steps on the sounds/words they either have to make the sound, say the word or answer a question.
- **Torch Hide and Seek:** Similar to a treasure hunt, but done in the dark with a torch! Each time your child shines their light on a target picture they have to say that sound/word or answer the question.
- **Treasure Hunt:** Hide pictures containing the target sound/words/question around the room. Whenever your child finds a picture they have to make the sound/say the word/answer the question.
- **What's in the Bag?:** Place several items or pictures in a bag. If using objects, you can get your child to feel what's in the bag and try to guess what it is. If using pictures, take one out at a time and either make that sound or talk about what's in the picture.

If you need pictures for any of the games you are playing you download them from Google images. There are also various websites that have ready-made cards for use in therapy. For example:

Mommy Speech Therapy

http://mommyspeechtherapy.com/?page_id=55

Speech and Language Kids

<https://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/free-materials/>

If you think your child would benefit from support to develop their speech, language or communication skills please contact your local SLT (Speech and Language Therapy) Service.