

## Language activities based on the Big Book of Ideas: Section 3

### Making sense of the world through pretend play

- ✚ Use a large doll/teddy/character toy and some real objects e.g. cup/spoon/brush. Pretend to have a drink and then give the toy a drink. Say e.g. 'Give Peppa a drink' and let your child copy what you did. You can also do familiar actions like, washing face, brushing hair, wiping nose, feeding, putting to bed.

### Using songs to learn names of body parts

- ✚ **Heads, shoulders, knees & toes**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RuqvGiZi0gg>
- ✚ **Here we go round the Mulberry Bush:** you can add other actions – this is the way we pat our knees/wiggle our fingers/shake our shoulders  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LzYKpPGTkrI>
- ✚ **If you're happy and you know it clap your hands:** you can make up your own actions to this too  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwTwt4oIW3U>

- ✚ **Everybody hide your toes** (to the tune of 'London Bridge is falling down')

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaXCf\\_fPD2k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaXCf_fPD2k)

You and your child each have something to cover your toes e.g. a scarf or towel as you sing:

Everybody hide your toes, hide your toes, hide your toes.

Everybody hide your toes – now lets find them. 1...2.....3..woooo (as you uncover them)

Repeat with hiding your knees, tummy, chin, head.

### Learning what 'action words' (verbs) mean

- ✚ Use a large doll/teddy/character toy. Say to your child 'Ready steady jump' and do it together. Let your child make the toy do the same actions – you could try jumping/hopping/kicking/dancing/clapping/waving
- ✚ Play some music. When the music stops choose an action to do
- ✚ Video your child doing lots of different actions. Play back the video and name the action while your child copies it.
- ✚ While sharing books or watching favourite TV programmes, name the actions that characters are doing

### Understanding sentences with 2 key words

- ✚ Put out 2 familiar toys e.g. doll/teddy/character toy and 2 familiar objects e.g. box/chair. Ask your child to put the toy in or on one of the objects.

### Understanding instructions without clues

- ✚ Give your child instructions to go and get things from around the house e.g. 'Go and get Mummy's shoes'

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- ✚ When outdoors, ask your child to run and touch something e.g. the fence. When they are good at following one instruction, you could ask them to run and touch 2 things e.g. the fence and the chair.

### Putting 2 words together (using 'more' or 'gone')

- ✚ Use bubbles – when your child indicates they want more say 'More bubbles'.
- ✚ You could also do the same with small pieces of banana or toast.
- ✚ Get a large cardboard box with a hole cut in the top. Have a selection of small items to post through the hole and as you do this say e.g. 'Keys gone' Encourage your child to say 'gone' then put both words together.

### Using 1 word to describe an action

- ✚ Video family members doing different actions e.g. eating/sleeping/washing/cooking/clapping/drawing/cutting/sweeping then watch the videos and ask your child to tell you what the people are doing.
- ✚ Look at picture books together and ask your child what the characters are doing. If they are unsure of the word you could give them a choice of 2 e.g. Is she dancing or sitting?
- ✚ Play some music and when the music stops choose an action for you and your child to do. When your child is familiar with the actions, let them say which action they want you both to do.

### Naming everyday things

- ✚ Play a 'naming game' together. Get a pillowcase and put about 10 everyday items inside. Let your child feel in the pillowcase and pull one item out, saying its name. If she doesn't know the name of the item, give a choice e.g. is it a spoon or a bowl? When all the items have been removed from the pillowcase, ask your child to pick up one at a time, name it and put it back in the bag.
- ✚ Play a sorting game. You could have 2 sets of familiar objects e.g. clothes and toys mixed together. Choose 1 item at a time and put it either in the clothes basket or the toy box, naming each item as you do it.

### Using actions in rhymes and songs

- ✚ Play some simple songs and rhymes which have actions – you can find lots on you tube: Twinkle, twinkle little star, I'm a little teapot, Hey diddle diddle, Polly put the kettle on, The Grand Old Duke of York, Incy Wincy spider, Humpty Dumpty (these are just a few). You can make up your own actions and encourage your child to join in with you. Remember to repeat the same songs lots of times!

### Talking about what I have seen and done

- ✚ When you go out for a walk, point to and name things which may capture your child's interest e.g. bird, dog, cat, flowers, car, bike, truck, traffic light, items in a shop. You could also take photos then let your child show another member of the family and say what they have seen.