

Activities

Set aside some time to play the activities contained in this pack with your child. Some activities take just a couple of minutes, others longer.

Have a look through the options first and choose activities that you can do in the time you have. Make sure you have to hand any of the things needed – some need simple toys, others just you!

Decide whether you will be doing just one activity or more and tell your child before you start playing.

Listening

Listening treasure box

Collect lots of things that make a noise, such as:

Crinkly paper

Noise making toys

Pots and pans

Musical instruments

Books with noise buttons

Explore! Listen and talk about them.



Spot the mistake

Sing a simple rhyme or song, but make a mistake – can children spot the mistake?

Incy wincy spider climbing up... a tree (should be spout)

The wheels on the... train go round and round (should be bus)

Twinkle twinkle little... hat (should be star)

Nursery Rhymes



Go games - wait for go

Build a tower of bricks.

Your child waits for you to say "Go" before they can knock it down.

Have a race – ready steady go...

Push a car to each other – ready steady go...

Dance around – ready steady go...

Roll the ball – ready steady go...



Where is that noise?

Get a toy or play music on a CD player or phone or mp3 player.

Hide the noisy object somewhere in the room – can your child find it?



Play

Puzzles

Do a simple jigsaw puzzle with your child.

If you don't have any puzzles, you can make your own by cutting up a picture from a magazine into 4 to 6 pieces – can your child put them back together to make the picture?



Treasure box

You and your child could make up a treasure box along a theme.

You could get some pots and pans, pretend food and some soft toys and get ready for a picnic.

Or get some old jewellery, an eye patch and a treasure map and get ready for a pirate adventure!



Make your own car

Turn a cardboard box into a car - draw on wheels or stick on paper plates, use silver foil for headlights, put a cushion inside to make the seat - now where will your child go on their adventure, who will they take with them?



Shopping

Keep old packaging such as egg boxes, cereal packets, juice bottles, tissue boxes etc - your child can make their own shop and sell things to other people.

Try toy shops, clothes shops - talk about what they need and where to get it from.



Understanding

Shopping games

Set up a pretend shop. Have 4 or 5 things in your shop – they can be toys or real things from your cupboards.

Ask your child to go and buy... The beans and the milk. The apple, the cheese and the yoghurt.



Posty

Make a postbox out of an old cardboard box, with a hole cut in it.

Your child can be a posty – have 4 or 5 toys to choose from. Ask them to collect different ‘parcels’ for posting. “Can you post the spot book?”

Instruction time

Children need to wait for you to say “go”. When you do they can run around, but must stop when you say “stop” and clap your hands.



Play in different ways by having children listen to an instruction, such as “Hop around and stop when I clap” or “Jump on the spot and stop when I bang on the drum”.

Puppets

Do what I say - use any puppet or even an old sock.

The puppets give simple instructions for the child to follow: “Go and touch the chair” “Jump up and down” “Find something you can eat” “Touch your head and rub your tummy” egg meat



Interaction

Taking turns

Play any simple game where you need to take turns.

Take turns to add a brick to a tower you’re building... take turns to play a simple board game like snakes and ladders... take turns to throw a ball...



Story time

Share a story either from a book or make up a story or tell stories about when you were young.

Your child could make up their own stories about their toys, which you could join in with.

Or get your child to tell their own stories using pictures– what do they think might happen next...?



Get down to their level

Conversations with a child are easier if you are on the same level. It might mean sitting or lying on the floor to talk and play.



Talk about what is happening

Watch a TV programme together and talk about it afterwards.

When they are playing, comment on what they are doing. Wait for children to talk first then expand on what they have to say. Expand language by scaffolding and adding words:

Child: ‘I drew a butterfly’ Adult: ‘Yes you drew a red butterfly. It’s beautiful’

