

# Language and Literacy Through Activities

Presenters:

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The primary source for our information is from the website *teachmetotalk.com* and the companion YouTube channel entitled *teach me to talk*. These are wonderful resources for language and literacy activities for children birth to three. The site is hosted by Laura Mize who is a pediatric speech-language pathologist who specializes in working with young children, ages birth to three, with communication delays and disorders in her private practice in and around Louisville, Kentucky. Although Laura's activities are created for children who are pre-verbal, or late talkers - her ideas are truly best practice for all caregivers who are looking for ways to promote language development with young children.

## Twister for Toddlers

<http://teachmetotalk.com/?s=twister+for+toddlers>

Requirements:

- Twister game or red, blue, green and yellow pieces of paper
- Predominately single colored red, blue, green, and yellow objects. For example, a red spoon, blue cup, green car, or yellow duck.
- For more advanced play, include a few items that do not match the Twister colors. For example, a purple ball or orange straw.

## The Mama Game

<http://teachmetotalk.com/2014/05/04/teach-child-say-mama-therapy-tip-week-5-4-14/>

Requirements:

- Two people to play with child. One person will be the mom and the other person is the person calling for mom. The other person could be another adult or older child.
- Ability for mom to hide so the child can't see her until the other person calls her.
- A mom who is willing to be very expressive when she is "found."
- Other options:
  - Video of mom being "found"
  - Video of mom saying "Mama" repeatedly so the child associates the name with the person
  - Mama album - simple, inexpensive photo album that contains pictures of mom.
- Make this game the Dada game or Grandma game, etc.

## Interactive Books

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dy0cwxQ0fyE>

Requirements:

- Cardboard book
- Color copies of pages of the book
- Laminate trimmed pictures
- Velcro adhesive dots

Different types of play with Interactive Books:

- Allow child to remove laminated picture from page.
- Allow the child to put the laminated picture in a box.
- Match laminated picture to corresponding picture in book.

## Teaching Body Parts

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLv-UPdWQe8>

General expectations:

- 12-month-old child knows two body parts and/or clothing items.
- 18-month-old child knows six body parts and/or clothing items.

How to play:

- Start with body parts the child can see, i.e. belly, toes, hair.
- Establish a routine to practice body parts, for example, at diaper change or bath time.
- Use songs to engage a child in pointing to or touching their body part.
  - This is the way I touch my toes, touch my toes, touch my toes, this is the way I touch my toes early in the morning. (Touch your toes and the child's toes.)  
(To the tune Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush)
  - (Child's Name) has a little toe, little toe, little toe, (Child's Name) has a little toe it's oh so nice to touch. (To the tune Mary Had a Little Lamb)
  - Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes  
Sit down and touch body parts. Sing the song slowly at first and then speed up the last time.

## Farm Animals!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eFGBtO3-Sg>

Requirements:

- Play barn – look for one that does not have sounds, has doors to open and close, and two levels.
- A variety of farm animals of different sizes, colors, or types.
- Farm equipment – tractor, feeding trough, bale of hay, etc.
- Other possibilities
  - Puzzles with farm animals
  - Books with pictures of farm animals

## Bubbles!

<http://teachmetotalk.com/2014/03/20/bubbles-therapy-tip-of-the-week-for-31914/>

Requirements:

- Bubble solution – purchased or home made
- Different types of bubble wands

Play with the bubbles by

- Catching a bubble on the wand and letting the child look at the bubble
- Touching the caught bubble to a child's body part
- Catch the bubbles by using different actions
  - Jumping
  - Reaching
  - Stomping
  - Clapping
  - Punching
  - Eating

## The Feelings Game

Requirements:

- Make flash cards of the attached six feeling faces
- Make flash cards of drawings of the six feelings
- Make flash cards of babies expressing the six feelings
- Make flash cards of family members expressing the six feelings