



Early communication games for Taking part



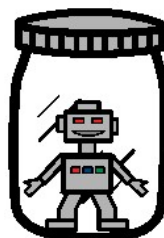
The following pack has games and activities to help with children's communication.
They are good to use with children who are not talking yet.

Pick one game each week to practise.

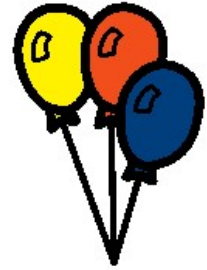
Turn off the TV and other distractions.

Follow your child's interests in the activity, model sounds, turn taking and other aims of the activities.

If you are seeing a speech and language therapist they may have picked out some games for you to try.



Pass the Balloon



Aim: to develop turn-taking

you will need: a balloon

how to play:

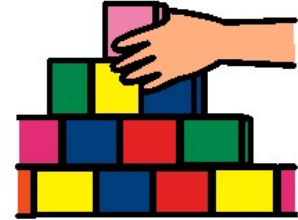
- sit opposite the child at their level
- hit the balloon towards the child for them to hit back to you
- keep taking turns

helpful hint:

you will have to move around to keep returning the balloon to the child

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Build a tower



Aim: to develop turn-taking

you will need: bricks in a box

how to play:

- sit opposite the child, at their level
- put one brick in front of the child
- help them to take a brick out of the box and put it on top of the brick in front of them
- take your turn to put the next brick on and then keep taking turns until the tower falls over
- do it again and again

helpful hints:

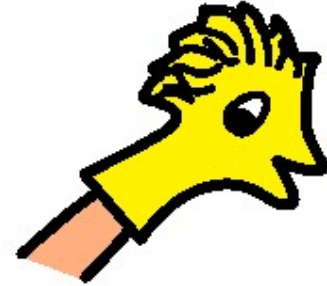
- you might need to keep the box of bricks out of the child's reach when it is your turn
- you can use other things that you stack or build like stacking rings, beakers or Duplo for this game

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With **all of us** in mind.

Copy me



Aim: to develop copying

you will need: 2 puppets or 2 similar objects for example balls, beanbags

how to play:

- sit opposite the child, at their level
- you have one puppet and give the child the other one
- make your puppet move and help the child to copy the action with their puppet

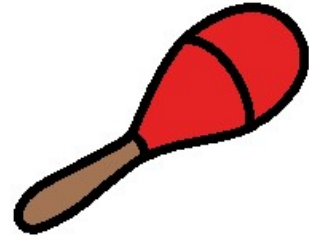
for example: put it on your head
 make it jump
 wave your hand
 make it go to sleep

helpful hints:

- give the child plenty of time to copy you. Wait a bit before you help them to do the same as you
- if at first, the child is not copying you, try copying what they are doing with their puppet before you do something different with yours

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Music game



Aim: to listen to symbolic sounds and early words

you will need: 2 hand held musical instruments or plastic bottles with rice inside

how to play:

- sit opposite the child, at their level
- hold one of the instruments and give the other one to the child
- shake/bang the instruments as you say 'go' loudly
- after about 10 seconds say 'sshhhhh' and put your instrument down and place your hand over the child's instrument
- help them to wait until you say 'go' again
- keep repeating this routine

helpful hints:

- gradually increase the amount of time you wait before saying 'go'
- as the child starts listening for 'go' and 'sshhhh', you can stop putting your hand over their instrument

Roll the ball



Aim: to listen to early words

you will need: a ball

how to play:

- sit opposite the child, at their level
- hold the ball and say 'ready, steady, go'. Roll the ball to the child as you say 'go'
- hold the ball with the child and say 'ready, steady.....' let them roll the ball as you say 'go'
- keep repeating this routine

helpful hints:

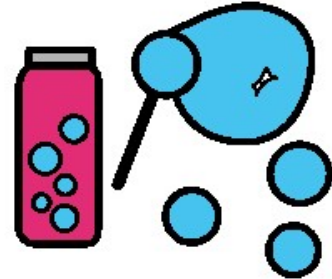
- as the child starts to listen for 'go', you won't need to hold the ball with them
- get the child to wait longer before you say 'go'

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With **all of us** in mind.

Bubbles



Aim: to ask for 'more'

you will need: bubbles

how to play:

- sit or kneel opposite the child, at their level
- blow some bubbles for the child to watch or pop
- then, hold the pot of bubbles up and look at the child
- wait until the child lets you know they want more and you say 'more?' The child may do this by reaching, pointing, looking at you, making a sound, moving, etc
- wait until the child is looking at you and blow the bubbles again saying 'more'
- keep doing this again

helpful hint:

it might help the child if you sign 'more' as you say the word