

Activities to Promote Communication 3

Activity One: Hello Song

As you sing this song today pause at different points and observe your child's reaction. They may sing/sign or say more words today. Positive Praise for all attempts

Activity Two: Listening Activities



Find a book with some animal pictures, download an app with Farm Sounds, play a YouTube clip of farm animal sounds or you could make the sound yourself. Play the sound and with hand over hand assistance help your child point to the corresponding picture. "Good Listening" "Yes it's Pig" "Good job" -You can sign the animals also.

As a reward I always play a song on YouTube called "What do you hear" when we finish the activity. It's a great way to reinforce the words that you worked on.



Activity Three: Turn-Taking

When your child can consistently imitate a movement e.g. banging a drum, use this drumming action to practice **turn-taking**.

Drum for a couple of seconds then hand your child the drum – you may need to use hand over hand assistance to help him/her tap the drum.

When your child is finished take the drum back and **take a turn**.

Goal: To take turns with you.

"Mommy's turn, Joey's turn" or you can say "My turn, Your turn"

You can use xylophones, piano, bells or any toy that the child has shown an interest in!

You could also play with tea sets:

Cooking Time- You may have a shiny new play tea-set or remnants of one in the house. Find 2 cups, 2 spoons, 2 plates and a teapot (lid optional!). Pour out some “tea” and say “my turn” wait for you child to copy you and then say “your turn”.

Model taking a turn, pause and provide wait time for your child to request you to make an action

Activity 4: Flash Cards – Developing Naming Skills

Today we are going to **look** at cards, if possible, use picture cards that correspond with the animal toys that you previously used. You may have a packet of flashcards containing animal picture cards or you could print some animal pictures.

Start with four pictures, dog, cow, sheep, horse

Tell your child that he is going to “look at pictures”

1. **Show** your child a picture card
2. **Attract** your child’s attention – “We’re going to look at some pictures”
3. **Say the word “Dog”**
4. Repeat the word **3** times
5. Show the child the **next** card
6. Repeat steps **3-5** for each remaining card in the set.

Your child just needs to look at the picture, and listen to you saying the word. Hold the picture close to your mouth, so that your child can attach the word to the picture. Give lots of praise and encourage your child to post the card, once they have looked and listened to three repetitions of the word.



Activity 5: Understanding Prepositions /in/

For this activity you will need a box with a lid and a toy that fits inside it. I like to use a teddy bear or dolly – you can use anything that is familiar to your child.

- Tell your child that you are both going to play a hiding game.
- Place the box between you and your child
- Hide the teddy/dolly in the box, you can say “Look Teddy is **in the box**”, you can also provide the Lamh sign for in.
- Take teddy out of the box and then tell your child that teddy wants to hide some more and ask for their help.
- Hold teddy up and ask your child to hide teddy “**in the box**”



Remember to provide lots of praise.

Activity 6: Clean up Song

As always, it's time to sing the clean-up song. As you are picking items up you can name them/sign and say the word. When you have placed all of the objects into the bag you can indicate that the activity is over by signing & saying the word **"Finished"** or **"all gone"**. Make sure to give positive praise during all tasks: **"Good Job!"** or **"You really helped Mummy/Daddy/me pick things up!"**.

If you would like any advice, support or some more activities please contact me:

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