

HOW CAN WE HELP? Early Play Skills



Ideas to encourage children's play skills in the Early Years

1. Let teddy/dolly join in the fun and games with the group. Feed teddy, wash dolly, comb their hair, give them a hat, dress them, give them an instrument or toy, etc.
2. Cars don't just drive along and crash! Develop play by showing the children what their cars can do:-
 - a. Go up and down hills, over or under bridges, fast or slow, etc.
 - b. Talk about where the cars are going, e.g. into the garage, shops, school, on holiday
 - c. Talk about why:- to buy petrol, to do the shopping, to pick up Alice
 - d. Talk about how:- Lady's driving, she needs a key, etc.
3. Encourage children to set up games with teddies and dollies. They may enjoy giving them make-believe tea parties, pretending they are going for a ride on a bus or pretending to be in the park or at a playgroup.
4. Cardboard boxes are great!! They make a house, a bus, a car.....what else?
5. Use a doll's house, playmobil, legoland/duplo people etc to encourage small doll play. The little characters are great for developing imagination.

For example, set up real-life situations, i.e. going to bed, having a bath, eating a meal, going to the park etc.

Talk around the subject, i.e. 'do you like going to the swing?', 'where is your swing?'

If you require any further support/advice please contact via the following email

Walsall.slt@nhs.net

In the subject line please state **FAO the Virtual School Speech and Language Therapy Support team** to ensure your message is actioned by the relevant team.