

Tips to Facilitate Learning Through Play

- Get down on the floor and play with your child.
- Give attention to what your child is doing.
- Tune into your child by putting all electronics aside temporarily.
- Follow your child's lead during play time instead of directing the play.
- Avoid asking too many questions during play time- don't continually quiz them.
- Play face to face with your child.
- Repeat key words over and over.
- Provide opportunity without pressure! Avoid directing your child to say specific words (e.g., don't say "Say ball," "Say cow" ...")
- Allow your child to "steal" language by using words he might say if he could talk.
- Be a fun, sensitive and intentional play partner.
- Be playful and animated – play like a kid.
- Enthusiastically describe what your child is doing, seeing, and hearing.
- Hold desired items next to your face to encourage child to look at you when you talk.
- Encourage child to play with toys in different ways.
- Allow for messes!! The mess is half the fun.
- Imitate your child actions and sounds.
- Provide opportunities for unstructured play time and encourage play that fosters creatively.
- Watch, listen and encourage the play but don't take over.
- Encourage your child to use 2 hands during play time, come to midline and cross midline.
- A successful play partner makes learning fun!! So be engaging, fun, happy, animated, encouraging, interesting, and responsive when interacting with your child.
- Remember play time is more about the relationship than about the toy!!!



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