

Speech and Language for My Young Child How to Use Various Toys, Games, and Cooking

This section will discuss ideas for using various toys, games and cooking to stimulate your child in the areas of language, oral motor skills, articulation, and fluency. The activities/toys suggested are felt to be interesting and stimulating to young children, however, you can use a variety of other toys/games/activities as well. It is suggested that you refer to the general techniques discussed previously for ideas and principles that can be used throughout these activities. The ideas below may or may not apply to your child. It is suggested that you use the ideas as a guide, and adapt the activities to your child's level. For example, if your child is speaking in short sentences, you would not want to encourage your child to say a one word sentence such as "open", but would rather want your child to say a short phrase such as "open the bubbles", etc. If your child is just beginning to use some single words, however, you would want to encourage your child to say a single word such as "open" as a request to have you open the bubbles for him/her.

Your child also may not need help in all of the areas discussed. For example, your child may be having difficulty with stuttering, but his/her language and speech clarity may be adequate. In this case, you can still stimulate your child in the other areas, but focus on the easier speech and fluency suggestions. Another example may be where your child may have adequate language skills, where he/she seems to be expressing him/herself adequately and understanding things, but, may be having difficulty with the clarity of speech. In this case, you would want to continue to stimulate your child in the other areas, but focus on the articulation using some of the ideas discussed. If your child seems to have difficulty in many of the areas discussed, you can focus on many areas, but make sure not to "overwork" your child. You want learning to be fun and enjoyable!!