

Playing games, listening and talking helps with communication skills, important for learning, making friends and building confidence. They take just 5 or 10 minutes or longer if time.

Top Tip

Put aside time each day for talking together – talk about things your child is interested in.

Our favourite things...

This activity is good for sharing our thoughts and ideas. It helps children understand another person's ideas and explain their own.

Who is doing the activity today?

Child Adult.....

Getting started

1. Choose a topic – maybe films, food, TV, games or sport...
2. Take turns to say some of the things you like in that category
3. Ask your child what their favourites are
4. Talk about how your favourites are similar or different or what you like best about those things
5. Encourage your children to ask you about your favourites too
6. You can also share the things you don't like



Colour me in once everything is complete!



EXAMPLE

What's your favourite film?

I like the lion king

I like lion king too – I liked Pumba and Timon...I like their songs

I like the bird best...Zazu

What did you find out?

My favourite is

Your favourite is

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Top Tip

Children can struggle to listen – show them how to do it by listening carefully when they are talking.

True or False

This activity is really good for getting your child thinking and talking. Trying to work out what is true or false, and especially **explaining why** they think that, is a really good communication workout.

Who is doing the activity today?

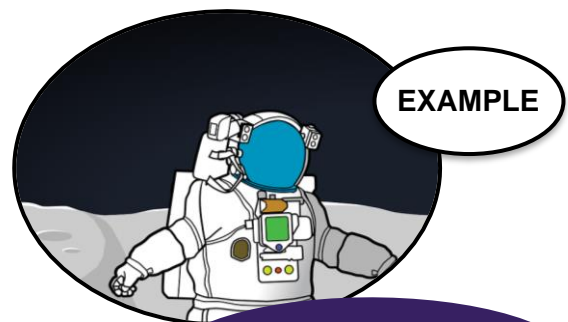
Child Adult.....

Getting started

1. Tell your child you'll say a true or false statement.
2. They need to decide which it is and explain **why** they think that.
3. The first time you play, choose something obvious.
4. Then make things more difficult – e.g. "blonde and fair mean the same thing."
5. You could choose something where the answer is about yourself, e.g. "I broke my arm when I was 5."
6. Once they have the idea, your child can think up some true or false statements for you.



Colour me in once everything is complete!



Astronauts have been to the moon

Ducks can't fly

Dogs are always bigger than cats

I'd love to live on a farm

My favourite movie is lion king

What did you find out?

Something true is

Something false is

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Top Tip

Share family stories and experiences, encourage them to share their thoughts and feelings.

Making a story together

We often tell stories about our day - maybe about a TV programme we've enjoyed or plans for the weekend.

Story telling skills are important for social interaction.

This game is great practice for building stories together.

Who is doing the activity today?

Child Adult.....

Getting started

1. Tell your child you are going to make up a story together by taking turns to tell different parts.
2. You could start the story... **once upon a time**. Then, ask your child to add the next bit..., maybe **who** is in the story.
3. Then you take a turn, maybe **where** the story happens – e.g. **in a deep dark wood**.
4. Your child could then add another character or explain **what happens** in the story first.
5. Keep taking turns and adding bits to the story.
6. Decide on how many turns to make sure there is a definite **beginning, middle and end**.



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EXAMPLE

One cold snowy day

an abandoned puppy was seen by a young girl.

She took him home and gave him food

She wanted to keep him, but her mum said "no" we can't take care of a puppy

But her grandma agreed to take the puppy, so the girl got to see him every day.
The End.

Who was in the story?.....

Where and when did it happen?.....

What happened?.....

How did it end?.....

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Top Tip

Encourage your child to ask questions if they are unsure of something – this really helps with understanding

Guess what...

This activity is great for thinking and understanding. It is important when children don't understand they ask questions to help gather more information. This game gives lots of practice for talking and understanding.

Who is doing the activity today?

Child Adult.....

Getting started

1. In this game, you describe something, and your child should guess what it is.
2. Start with things your child knows well, then make it a bit harder by describing more unusual things.
3. When you have finished describing, your child should guess. Encourage them to ask questions if they are not sure.
4. If they get it wrong, help them work out why it can't be that thing and to think again.
5. Once your turn is over, swap and give your child a turn to describe something that you must guess.



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EXAMPLE

It is an animal you might have as a pet. It lives in a cage and likes to eat carrots. It has long ears...

Something you can eat that is round, made of dough and has lots of toppings you can have – my favourite is ham and pineapple

This is a sport you play in school where you score by throwing a ball through a net

What did you guess?

I guessed

You guessed

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Top Tip

Talk about how words sound, whether long and complicated or short and simple one. Think of words that rhyme.

Only Bs

This activity is good for thinking about words and the sounds that are used in them. This really helps children with listening and talking as well as practicing some of the skills needed for reading.

Who is doing the activity today?

Child Adult.....

Getting started

1. Tell your child you are going to play a game focusing on the "b" sound.
2. Tell them you are planning a trip to the beach.
3. The special thing about the trip is you can only take or do things that start with a "b" sound, then take it in turns to come up with different ideas.
4. This is a quick and easy talking game to play any time.
5. Keep going until you run out of ideas
6. You can start again with a new place and new letter.



Colour me in once everything is complete!



EXAMPLE

We're taking my bike to the beach

We're taking your bike and my ball to the beach

We're taking my bike, your ball and some bananas to the beach

We're taking your bike, my ball, some bananas...and I am going to eat a burger at the beach

What did you take to the beach?

We took all the "b" words to the beach

.....

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Top Tip

Talk about new words, explain what they mean and talk about how you would use them in a sentence.

Odd one out...

This activity is good for helping children learn words – working out how words are similar or different gets conversations going about other words too. Learning and understanding new words is important for conversations and learning.

Who is doing the activity today?

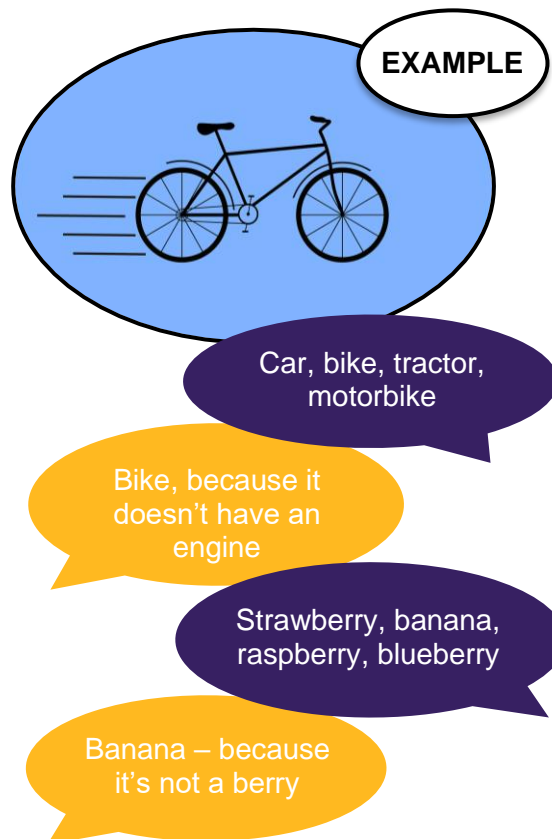
Child Adult.....

Getting started

1. Tell your child you are going to play an odd one out game.
2. You will tell them four different things. Three belong in the same category – e.g. fruit or transport, countries or characters from a film – one will not belong to that category.
3. Your child has to work out which word is the odd one out and explain why.
4. Once they have the idea of the game, see if they can think of some “odd one out” examples for you to guess.



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What were the odd ones out ... and why?

.....was the odd one out because

.....was the odd one out because

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Top Tip

Talk about words – what they look and sound like and what they mean.

Alphabet games

This activity is good for helping children learn words – thinking about words that belong to one topic or subject can help children see how they are connected, which helps them remember them more easily.

Who is doing the activity today?

Child Adult.....

Getting started

1. Decide between you on a good topic.
This can be anything at all – something your child is interested in, like a favourite sport or food
2. Start at the beginning of the alphabet and think of a word for that topic, e.g. apple
3. Take turns, thinking of something for each letter of the alphabet, for example, “Burger, Cauliflower, Dates, Eggs, etc.
4. You can each have a couple of turns where you “pass”
5. Take turns until you get to the end of the alphabet.



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EXAMPLE



Some new words I learned today

Topic

Words learned

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Top Tip

Try to get rid of distractions, like the TV or phones. Listening to your child helps them learn how to listen in return.

If...

This is a great activity for talking and listening to each other and for getting the imagination going! Encouraging children to explain why can really help with their reasoning skills – important for understanding and learning.

Who is doing the activity today?

Child Adult.....

Getting started

1. Take turns to answer a **“what would happen if...”** question and share ideas.
2. Start with a simple question – if you were an animal, what would you be and why?
3. Encourage your child talk about their thoughts, then share with them what your animal would be and why...
4. Talk about whether there are any surprises – did they know what you would say.
5. Share ideas about lots of different ideas – some ideas are below, though you can both think up your own.



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EXAMPLE



If you could have any super power, what would it be?

If you were an animal, what would you be and why?

If you could be brilliant at any sport, what would it be and why?

If you could visit any place, where would it be and why?

What did you find out?

My would be

Your would be