



EARLY YEARS

Communication Week - activities for parents Marvellous Monday

Marvellous Monday

- Pre-phonics Focus
- Instrumental Sounds

Sound activity

Young children love making sounds. Use saucepans and spoons from your cupboard, let the children bang them together, what different noises do they make and does it change with different sizes of pans? **Bang, crash, clatter, ting, clang...**

Fill plastic bottles with different amounts of water and screw the lids on tightly. Colour the water with paint or food colouring to help hold young children's interest and to make it easier to see the difference in the height of the water. Tap the bottles, how do the sounds change? **Low, high, dull, thump, bump.** Shake the bottles, **splash, splat, sshhhh.**

How many other words can your children think of that mean 'marvellous'?

Use the other words in your conversations:

Super, amazing, astounding, breathtaking, outstanding.

Activity idea

Make a handprint giraffe.

You will need some paper, some yellow and brown paint.

Lay out the paper. Put some yellow paint in a flat tray and ask your child to put the palm of their hand in the paint. Make a handprint on the paper. Turn the paper round so that the five fingers become four legs and a tail.

Add a simple long neck and head. Add brown spots to the picture. If you don't want to use paint, use yellow paper and draw round your hand, remember to add in a neck using your arm, then draw a head and colour on the brown spots.

You can let your children just explore the yellow paint, finger painting on brown spots.



Rhyme and song activity

Sing songs or say rhymes together such as:

Five little giraffes jumping on the bed
One fell off and bumped his head
Mother called the doctor and the doctor said
"No more giraffes jumping on the bed!"

Four little giraffes jumping on the bed
One fell off and bumped his head
Mother called the doctor and the doctor said
"No more giraffes jumping on the bed!"

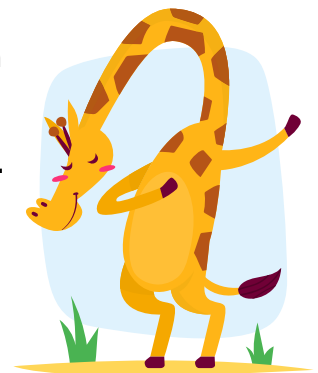
Go online and find '[Five little giraffes jumping on the bed](#)' and sing along. Use your fingers to show the numbers.

Story time

Read rhyming stories about giraffes such as '[Giraffes Can't Dance](#)' by Giles Andreae and '[A Giraffe and a half](#)' by Shel Silverstein.

If you don't have the books you could visit the [library](#), or watch clips online together and talk about the story, what happens and explore new words.

Giraffes barely make a sound. The noise giraffes make has been described as a **bleat, brr, cough, burst, snore.** Try making these sounds using items in your home. Make instruments using bottles or saucepans and see if you can dance to the sounds like Gerald the giraffe. Bang the saucepans like a drum in time to music, following the beat and rhythm.



Communication and Language

Listening and Attention

You might notice that your child:

Enjoys listening to stories you tell them and talks about them later.

Joins in with their favourite bits in the story, for example, "Who's been sleeping in my bed?" when you're reading Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

Joins in with their favourite rhymes and stories and guesses what will happen next.

Stops what they are doing and listens when they hear you talk to them, or they hear the doorbell ring.

Understanding

You might notice that your child:

Understands questions like "What do we need for a bedtime story?" They may be able to say "book"

or be able to point to one or even go and get one. Can follow simple instructions like "Put teddy under the blanket" or "Put the train on the track"

Understands what you are saying and can help when you ask them to bring you something.

Speech

Use longer sentences with words like "because" and "and". For example, "I cried, I did, because I banged my foot and it hurt".

Ask them to tell you about something that's happened. For example, "Remember when we went to the park yesterday and came home?". Ask lots of questions and answer your questions too.

Talk about what you are doing now, and what might happen later or tomorrow.

Sometimes talk like a grown up and repeat words to make yourself clear. For example, "I'm really, really hungry now". Use lots of different words.



Top Tips

Learning to talk is a complicated skill for a child. These tips will help you, to help them:

- Say their name when you start talking to get their attention
- Help your child to learn new words by using all their senses to teach new words
- Build in lots of repetition "Dog, yes a dog, woof woof dog"
- Build on what your child already knows and says
- Taking turns with babies, add words for toddlers and phrases for older children. "Car, yes it's a car, a blue car, a big blue car"
- Talk about things that your child is interested in
- If your child makes a mistake, repeat the words and sentences clearly in the correct way
- Use comments and prompts instead of asking them too many questions. "We're going to walk to see Granny, we have to go up the road and through the park"
- Play around with words and make up silly ones
- Give your child time to think about what you have said
- Chatting is important, the more you chat to your child the more time they get to practice

Find out more about your Child's development

[What to expect when - Developmental Guide for Parents](#)

If you have any concerns about your child's development the first thing to do is talk to your child's key person at their childminder / nursery / pre-school.

Find out More

- [The Communication Trust Top Tips](#)
- [Literacy Trust Multilingual](#)
- [BBC Tiny Happy People](#)
- [Words for Life - ideas for Parents](#)
- [Hungry Little Minds Campaign](#)

