



EARLY YEARS

Communication Week - **activities for parents**
Wonderful Wednesday

Wonderful Wednesday

- Pre-phonics Focus: Alliteration
- Repetition of words with the same beginning sound such as 'slimy slithering snake.'

Story time

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault

The book begins with the letter A telling the letter B and B telling the letter C to meet at the top of the coconut tree. The letters in alphabetical order begin to climb the tree but as more and more climb up the coconut tree the tree begins to bend and Chicka Chicka Boom Boom!

Each Peach Pear Plumb by Janet and Allan Ahlberg

Each illustrated page of this classic book will encourage your child to spy another familiar fairy tale or nursery rhyme character. Your child will love spotting all the hidden details in each picture in this rhyming book. [Online there is a video to watch of the story being read.](#)

The Other Ark by Lynley Dodd

Noah's Ark is jam-packed but there's still an enormous queue of animals waiting to board. Noah asks his friend Sam Jam Balu to take the other ark but is Sam ready for the hip-hopping hippos, burrowing flumps and candy-striped camels with comical humps!?

Find and read nursery rhymes

Encourage your child to learn their favourite rhymes by heart. What other rhymes do they know? What are their favourites? Can you learn some new ones?

Finish off the rhyme

Get your child to finish off the rhyme, for example, say "*Tom Thumb in the cupboard... I spy...*" Your child will say "*Mother Hubbard*".

[CBeebies Nursery Rhymes - CBeebies - BBC](#)

Make a sound bag with your child activity

Find a box or a bag and add a few items that begin with the same sound, for example, pencil, plastic plate, pirate, parrot, pot, paper, pear.

Tell your child you have a 'p' bag, and everything in the bag starts with 'p'. Encourage your child to say the sound 'p' and ask if they think it is coming from the front or back of their mouth?

Make up a story by getting your child to pick an object from the bag, for example, Pete the parrot flew off his perch and landed on the pirate.

Encourage your child to make up their own story/rhyme using items in the bag or box.

Play sound ping pong game

Take it in turns to say a simple word. The last person to say a word with the same sound chooses the next word, for example, 'peach, pen, peg', 'broom, boom and box.'

It doesn't matter if they are silly made-up words as this adds to the fun!

peach pen peg pig

Introduce a sound basket activity

You will need a basket or container to fill with toys and objects that have a sound partner, for example, boat and book, sock and soap, pen and peg, key and cup, biscuits and banana.

Ask your child to pick an object and name it. Together, look through the other items and see if they can find a sound pair. Two objects beginning with the same sound.

You may need to repeat the name of the first object to remind your child of the sound they are trying to make 'sss...ock and sss...oap.'

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](#)

