

The looking table

- What can you see?
- What does it feel like?
- Where does it come from?

Talking together about what you see builds your child's vocabulary.

Encouraging curiosity

- What can you see?
- What can you feel?
- What happens next?
- What will happen if...?

Wonder about what you see. This helps your child become curious and curiosity helps learning.

The story table

Enjoy a story together

Ask your child to tell the story in their own words.

Remember, pretend reading is **REAL** reading.

Sensory play

Your child's vocabulary will **GROW** with sensory play.

Words to use:

Soft, hard, prickly, smooth, rough, slippery, scratchy, sticky, clumping, crumbly, dry, wet, ooey, gooey, slimy, squishy, squashy, runny, firm, cold, warm.

Children need time when trying new sensory activities.

If your child is reluctant to try messy play, you could offer them a tool to use such as a spoon, stick or cup. That way they can still be involved without feeling overwhelmed.

Today

Support your child's exploration by:

- Following their lead (or play ideas).
- Watching over.
- Helping.
- Being a relaxed presence.

Be a relaxed presence watching over your child.

Delight in their discoveries and be ready to help when they need it.

Cooking

- Support your child to follow the recipe from start to finish.
- Look at the recipe.
- Talk about each step.
- Show your child what to do so they can watch and copy.

Give them just enough help so they can do it themselves and develop a sense independence.

Talking together

Children learn when people talk with them and take the time to listen to what they say.

Talking together

Use lots of new and interesting words with your child.

Talking together

Talk about what you are doing and what your child is doing.

(It is OK if you feel a little silly!)

Talking together

Even before your child is born they can hear you talking to them.

Singing together

**Singing helps babies
and children to feel
content and relaxed.**

**You can sing to your
baby before they are
even born.**

Singing together

**Singing helps children
learn language
through rhythm
and rhyme.**

Singing together

**Singing songs from
your childhood and in
your language keeps
your culture alive.**

Singing together

**Singing together
helps your child's
brain develop.**

Playing together

Children learn through play and everyday experiences.

Playing together

Build your child's play around what they are interested in (follow their lead).

Playing together

Explore the world together. Children learn through touching, looking, smelling, pretending, discovering and having fun.

Playing together

Move around together with your child. Running, jumping, climbing, rolling and being playful helps them to grow and learn.

Reading together

Reading together helps children learn about the world and learn new language.

Reading together

Reading can happen anywhere! Read signs and words that you see around you.

Reading together

Children love both familiar and new books.

Remember the library is free and a fun place to visit!

Reading together

Snuggling up and reading together can become a family routine.

Looking together

Help your child explore the world around them.

Looking together

Talking about what you see builds your child's vocabulary and makes them connected to their world.

Looking together

Looking and collecting 'treasures' together from nature gives your child a sense of value and connection to nature.

Looking together

Taking time to look at the world together shows your child that you value them and their interests.

Laughing together

Take the time to laugh with your child. Having fun together strengthens your relationship.

Laughing together

Children feel secure when they are loved and part of a family. Doing fun things together helps them feel this.

Laughing together

Delighting in your child helps to build their self esteem.

Laughing together

Children learn better when they are having fun.

Learning together

You are your child's first and most important educator.

Learning together

A warm relationship nurtures learning.

Learning together

Your child is learning from everything they experience.

Learning together

Everyday activities, like cooking and gardening, are chances to talk, wonder and learn together.

Belonging together

Children feel secure and learn well when they feel loved and part of a family.

Belonging together

Children develop their identity through their relationships and connections with family and community.

Belonging together

When you let children help with everyday tasks like cooking, gardening or washing up, it makes them feel important and grows their sense of belonging.

Belonging together

Children's connection to their culture develops through their experiences.

Following your child's lead

- Stay close to your child and follow them to activities that interest them.
- Watch what your child is doing.
- Say what they are doing.

Show them that they are valued and have good ideas.

Develop their self-esteem and confidence.

Develop their literacy by allowing them to hear new words.

Following your child's lead

- Play with them.
- Offer a new idea to extend the play (be careful not to take over the play).

Ask your child to tell the story in their own words.

Encourage them to be imaginative.

Construction play

Building with blocks or other construction toys such as duplo or mobilo.

What can you do?

- Sit with your child.
- Follow your child's play ideas.
- Allow your child to be creative.
- Say what they are doing "Oh you're making a very tall tower!"
- Use descriptive and interesting words to comment on your child's building, like enormous, gigantic, tiny, wobbly, long, winding, skyscraper.
- Allow your child lots of uninterrupted time to build.
- Ask older children to tell you about their building.
- Add props such as animals, cars, rocks or signs.
- Talk about shapes, patterns and directions.
- Count how many car parks or animal pens you need?
- Measure how tall or how long your child's building is.
- Make up a story about your child's building.
- Ask open-ended questions like: "What shall we build today?"
- Ask open-ended questions.

Construction play

What are they learning?

When children build they are:

- Developing their numeracy understanding of size, shape, number and spatial awareness.
- Developing their language and literacy skills.
- Using their imagination.
- Communicating their ideas.
- Practising eye-hand coordination and hand muscle strength needed for writing.
- Representing and making sense of their world.
- Learning social skills such as sharing and cooperating with others.

Developing independence

Helping 'just enough' so children can do it themselves begins to build a sense of independence.

What can you do?

- Stay close to your child.
- As often as possible, allow your child to do things for themselves.
- Watch over them and support them with tasks that are too hard (like cutting for the first time).
- Encourage them to have a go.
- Don't worry about the mess!
- Get them to help with cleaning-up spill food or wiping-up paint on the table.
- Follow their play ideas.
- Allow lots of time to practise and master new skills.
- Use child-size items, such as chunky pencils, small scissors, tongs or a small jug for pouring to make success more likely.
- Have a 'good face' even if they mess-up – stay calm and fix it together!

Developing independence

What are they learning?

When you allow your child to do things for themselves you are:

- Telling them that they are capable and competent.
- Developing their self-esteem and confidence.
- Telling them that they have good ideas and are worthwhile.
- Allowing them the time to practise and master skills like writing, cutting and dressing themselves.
- Letting them know that it is OK to make mistakes.
- Showing them that persistence pays off.
- Teaching them to be resilient and to have another go.

Discovery table

What can you do?

- Sit with your child.
- Talk about what you see or where you might find each item.
- Use interesting words to describe how it feels, looks, sounds, smells or tastes.
- Sort or classify item by size, shape, colour or into groups.
- Count how many of each item.
- Make up a story about the items on the table.
- Make a pattern with the objects.
- Enjoy and delight with your child.
- Words you can use:
Shiny, slippery, same/different, rough/smooth, hard/soft, big/small, bumpy, texture, natural/man-made, veins, stem, roots, leaves, enlarge, magnify.
- Ask open-ended questions, like:
 - What can you see?
 - What does it feel like?
 - Which is the most common?
 - Which one can grow?

Discovery table

What are they learning?

When children discover they are:

- Building their vocabulary.
- Developing curiosity which is useful for all future learning.
- Becoming observant and feeling connected to their world.
- Learning about sustainability and the environment.
- Hypothesising and practising scientific reasoning.
- Shown you value them and their interests.
- Developing numeracy as they count, measure, sort and make patterns.

Dramatic play

What can you do?

- Play 'let's pretend' with your child.
- Value your child's play ideas.
- Describe the props and use interesting descriptive words and questions to expand your child's vocabulary e.g. "What a lovely red polka-dot teapot, could you please make me a cup of steaming hot tea?"
- Offer ideas to extend the play, being careful not to take over e.g. "I think a biscuit would go nicely with my tea".
- Talk about feelings e.g. "That dinosaur is roaring and stomping maybe it's feeling angry or grumpy!"
- Make up a story or re-enact a familiar story or situation like going on a picnic or changing a nappy.
- Sort, group or classify prop items e.g. a plate for mum and a plate for you and a plate for daddy.
- Create something new to add to the play like a sign or a playdough cake.
- Show enjoyment and delight – have a 'good face'.
- Talk in your home language.
- Ask open-ended questions.

Dramatic play

What are they learning?

When children engage in dramatic play they are:

- Developing their language and literacy skills as they pretend, write shopping lists and read menus.
- Developing their social skills as they share, take turns and cooperate.
- Developing their creativity as they use their imaginations to play and tell stories.
- Developing their emotional intelligence.
- Learning that they have good ideas and are fun to be with, developing their self-esteem.
- Developing their numeracy as they count, and sort while playing shops, set the table or pack away the home corner equipment.
- Being resourceful and inventive.
- Role-playing situations that they have seen, trying out new roles (like being the mum or the baby), playing out different solutions, which helps them make sense of their world.

Painting

What can you do?

- Sit or stay near your child.
- Cover your child's clothes with a smock.
- Allow your child to be creative.
- Say what they are doing "Oh you're painting a long green line."
- Use descriptive and interesting words to comment on your child's painting, like shimmering, splotchy, dollops, thin strokes, dripping, splats, ominous, bright, cheery or gloomy.
- Allow your child lots of time to finish their painting.
- Ask older children to tell you about their artwork.
- Tell a story if they want you to.
- Talk about colours as they mix.
- Talk about position and direction as they paint "You're painting at the top, edge or bottom of the page."
- Ask open-ended questions.

Painting

What are they learning?

When children paint they are:

- Developing their language and literacy.
- Using their imagination.
- Learning to express and communicate their ideas.
- Developing their neural sensory pathways.
- Practising eye-hand coordination and hand muscle strength needed for writing.
- Developing their numeracy understanding of shape, patterns, distance and space.
- Experimenting with science.
- Planning and using observational skills to recall and represent objects.

Playdough

What can you do?

- Sit with your child.
- Say what they are doing "Oh you're rolling a ball."
- Use interesting words like squish, squeeze, pound, roll, dough and flatten.
- Extend their play "Would you like to make a pizza? What toppings shall we put on it?"
- Compare sizes, thickness and length.
- Count "How many biscuits did you make?"
- Ask open-ended questions.

Playdough

What are they learning?

When children play with dough they are:

- Developing their language and literacy.
- Using their imagination.
- Developing their neural sensory pathways.
- Practising eye-hand coordination and hand muscle strength needed for writing.
- Developing their numeracy skills.
- Learning social skills like sharing.

Sensory play

Activities that stimulate the senses.

What can you do?

- Sit with your child.
- Say what they are doing.
- Use interesting words to describe how it feels, looks, sounds, smells or tastes.
- Enjoy and delight with your child.
- Have a go to show them that it is OK.
- Offer a tool like a brush or stick if they do not want to touch straight away, or let them watch other children for a while until they feel confident to have a go.
- Ask open-ended questions.

Sensory play

What are they learning?

When children engage in sensory play they are:

- Developing their language and literacy skills.
- Developing their neural sensory pathways important in all learning.
- Learning self-calming techniques.
- Developing their social skills.
- Improving their fine motor and eye-hand coordination (useful in writing).
- Developing their gross motor skills as they use vestibular (movement) senses to balance and move around in space.
- Developing their creativity as they make mud pies or build roads in the sandpit.
- Learning about science and cause and effect.
- Practising self-control skills.
- Developing their numeracy as they count, measure, sort and make patterns.

Small world play

Recreating an environment or a scene from real life, stories or the imagination for children to play with.

What can you do?

- Sit next to your child.
- Talk about the small world – use interesting words to describe what you see or feel.
- Talk about feelings, e.g. “Do you think the baby dinosaur is scared of the T-rex?” “Why is the baby crying... is it feeling sad?”
- Make up a story or re-enact a familiar story.
- Sort, group or classify items.
- Create something new to add to the small world, like a sign or cardboard roll tree.
- Show enjoyment and delight – have a ‘good face’.
- Talk in your home language.
- Ask open-ended questions.

Small world play

What are they learning?

When children engage in small world play they are:

- Developing their language and literacy skills.
- Developing their social skills as they share, take turns and co-operate.
- Improving their fine motor and eye-hand coordination (useful in writing).
- Developing their creativity as they use their imaginations to play and tell stories.
- Learning about science and cause and effect, e.g. as they add water to dirt to make mud for the pigs.
- Practising self-control skills.
- Developing their numeracy as they count, measure, sort and make patterns.
- Developing their neural sensory pathways important in all learning.
- Developing their emotional intelligence and making sense of their world.
- Learning that they have good ideas and are fun to be with, developing self-esteem.



