



## THE IMPORTANCE OF USING FUN, ENGAGING, MOTIVATING ACTIVITIES IN THERAPY, HOME, AND SCHOOL SETTINGS FOR EARLY LEARNING



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We all know playing is part of every child's daily routine. But did you know that play time is absolutely vital to a child's healthy development?



A child's exposure to play provides physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development. Research shows that up to 75% of brain development happens after birth, and the early years of a child's life are the foundation for healthy growth and development.

Every time a child engages in an activity the nerve cells in the brain are stimulated and connections are

made. This process influences the development of:

- fine and gross motor skills
- language
- speech
- socialization
- personal awareness
- listening and attention
- emotional well-being
- creativity
- problem solving and learning ability

So why not use the most engaging activities we can at an early age, right?

There are a lot of simple games and activities you can play and use at home and school to indirectly work on speech, language, fine and gross motor activities, etc.! These can be played while driving in the car to school, when you are at the park, or a home. Learning does not have to be done in a structured environment. Don't forget that when you are playing games to focus on speech and language, you will also be working on social skills, taking turns, observing, and listening and attending, so it's a win-win situation!

Check out my fun list of favorite activities/toys/games that I use to motivate children to learn and meet their goals! These are specific to children age 2-6 years of age but really kids at any age love them!

1. Bubbles
2. Bouncy balls
3. Racing cars
4. Magnets (any kind will do)
5. Fishing games
6. Simon Says
7. Drawing/coloring on dry-erase boards
8. Hopscotch



*\*\*All the above items can be used to get children to want to complete tasks.*

#### HOW CAN YOU USE THESE GAMES/TOYS?

Use practice sounds/words/language tasks that your therapist provides and ask your child to say or answer one of them, then they can "Blow a bubble or bounce the ball to you."

You can increase the number of answers needed for older kids. So instead of the child producing one answer in-between playing with toys, you can ask them to produce 5-10 answers. These motivators can also be used with general homework tasks when trying to get your child to complete homework nightly.

Please let us know if you have questions regarding this information! We would be more than happy to explain anything above in detail!

Thanks so much!

Lacie Robichaux, MS CCC-SLP

All for the Kids Therapy Services

Inspiring your kids to continue to learn and grow!