



Purposeful Ongoing Play

Enhancing Language Skills Through Play

Parent Tip Sheet (P.O.P. Sheet) on... Dolls & Stuffed Animals

- * Find dolls or stuffed animals that match your child's interests. stinky, wet, messy, clean, tired, sleepy, fussy).
- * Below are some ideas that may be used, but don't feel you have to use them all every time you pick up a doll or stuffed animal. Just pick 2 or 3 that you feel comfortable with and can easily do.
- * When playing with stuffed animals, name them and talk about where they live, what they eat, the sounds they make, and so on. For example, "The frog lives in the pond!" or "The rabbit eats carrots!" or "The monkey goes oo-oo-oo!"
- * Model pretend play with the stuffed animals or dolls, feeding them, bathing them, changing diapers, putting them to sleep, and so on.
- * Emphasize **action words** that relate to the different tasks (i.e. eat, drink, burp, clean, wash, change, wipe, cry, lay down, sleep), **related nouns** (i.e. bowl, cup, spoon, bottle, bib, bathtub, soap, water, towel, diaper, wipes, pajamas, crib, blanket, pacifier), as well as **descriptive words** (i.e. hungry, thirsty, full, dirty, stinky, wet, messy, clean, tired, sleepy, fussy).
- * Talk through everything you're doing. For example, "The baby is hungry. I'm going to give her some milk. Here's her bottle. The baby is drinking her milk!"
- * If you have two or three different dolls or animals, talk about how they're the same or different. For example, "This baby has pink pajamas and this baby has purple ones!" or "The frog and the rabbit both jump! Watch them jump!"
- * Watch your child as he/she interacts with the animals or dolls and comment on and affirm what they're doing.
- * If your child is using words to express himself/herself about the activity, affirm what they say and then expand their words into complete sentences, modeling more vocabulary and correct grammar.
- * Enjoy playing and have fun pretending!



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