

Communication and Language Leaflet

October 2021

Focus this month:

Getting Crafty



paint



paint

Why Is Crafting Important?

Doing craft activities with young children is fun and gives fantastic opportunities for developing their language.

Making comments and asking questions to extend the children's ideas and their vocabulary is easy when adults and children are both engaged in an activity.



Choices

Let your child choose the activity and follow their lead. Give your child choices when they aren't sure.

"Would you like pink or a blue paint?"

This will help your child because:

- It will give them a choice so they have good reason to talk.
- It will give them the words to copy.

Talk

Talk about what you are making with your child. Don't be afraid to say it again and again.

This means that:

- Your child hears the word enough times to work out which object or action it goes with.
- Your child hears the word in lots of different situations.
- Your child will have a go at saying it, but may need to hear it a hundred times first!

Strategies

Be face to face with your child.

Observe what your child does.

Wait for your child to respond after you have done or said something.

Listen to your child while they speak.

Comment

Comment on materials and textures being used. Craft activities are particularly good for using lots of action words (e.g. stick, cut, squeeze, draw, stab, poke etc.) and also describing words (e.g. sparkly, dirty, squidgy, tiny, soft etc.).

I Am Independent

Children love to do things for themselves; they also love to help! Encourage them to help set up the table with the craft material you are going to use and encourage them to tidy up with you once you have finished crafting. Let them help with simple tasks such as putting lids on glue or sorting pom-poms by colour ready for next time.

Make tidying up a game, take turns to put items away or have a race to see who can tidy the fastest. Be sure to break tasks down into smaller parts so they can be successful.

Tidying up provides a brilliant opportunity to model positional language with your child for example: "Can you put the lid on top of the glue?" "Put the sequins inside the pot." "Put the paintbrushes next to the paint."

Transient Art!

Provide a selection of loose parts for your child to manipulate. When putting these materials together, consider the creative potential the parts have. Your child will invariably come up with ideas you have not considered, but aim to include different textures, sizes and shapes.

Learning you may see:

- Maths – patterns, sometimes symmetry, lines, tessellation, size, positional language, counting, sorting and classifying, combining and separating, one-to-one correspondence, space, shape, measure
- Language – stories are often told as the materials are arranged
- Scientific concepts – material description, physical properties, developing wonder and curiosity
- Physical development – fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination
- Creativity
- Imagination
- Decision making



Puppets!

Make puppets that can then be used to sing songs or make up stories.



Messy Play!

Place big sheets of plastic or paper on the floor so that your child can be near or crawl on to it to make marks. Use paint, shaving foam, jelly or even spaghetti! Let them use their senses to explore the materials.



Outdoor Crafts!

Take your crafting outside! Paint rocks, draw on the floor with chalk or make models or collages using natural materials.



Play With Cornflour!

Add a small amount of water to the cornflour. Mix the water and cornflour together. Play with the cornflour, pouring & filling bowls and containers, mixing with forks and spoons. You could also add small world figures to enhance imaginative play.

Lets talk:

- Sticky
- Smooth
- Feel
- Soft
- Drip
- Solid
- Runny



Cutting And Sticking!

Explore the items you have collected such as magazines, newspapers or food boxes. Use words to describe what you can see. Let your child choose what they want to cut & stick. Find things to use from outside your home to cut and stick such as leaves or twigs. This will help your child to explore and experiment with different materials using their imagination.



Lets talk:

- Sticky
- Smooth
- Cut
- Tear
- Pull
- Rough
- Smooth

Play With Dough!

Explore and mix the dough together. This will help your child to explore colour, texture, scent and language.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of plain flour
- 2 cups of water
- 1 cup of salt
- 1 tablespoon of cooking oil
- 2 teaspoons of cream of tartar
- Food colouring

This playdough is soft and pliable and will keep fresh for several weeks if stored in a plastic bag in a refrigerator between uses. If left exposed to the air it will harden and then can be painted or varnished for a lasting finish.

Method:

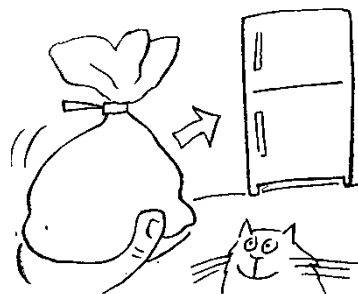
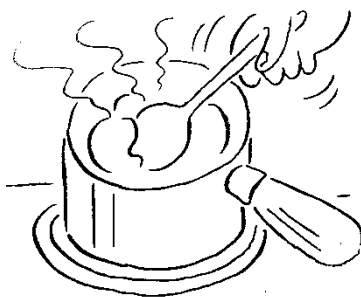
- Put all ingredients into a large saucepan on a gentle heat.
- Leave to cool.



- Stir continuously until the mixture leaves the side of the pan.



- Roll into a small ball and store in a plastic bag or container in the refrigerator or in a cool place.





Talking Together



Our best place is face to face

For information and advice about your child's talking and listening skills visit www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/language-for-life and visit us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nottslanguageforlife



For further information: <https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk>



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Talking Together



Talk with me all day
- at bath time, meal times
and in play

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