

HANDY HINTS **5**

Language Development
Other language related
skills

Including these play-based activities in daily life at home will help all young children to develop language and may be particularly helpful for children who are slower to talk or who have problems listening and paying attention to other people.

Concentration

- use visual clues to help keep attention on a story.
- when telling a story, vary the pitch, tone and volume.
- choose stories or songs with actions and finger rhymes
- build up from short to longer stories.
- use music, rhythm and rhyme to help build up auditory memory, for example "I went to market and I bought..."

Sequencing and sorting

- sort items into big and small, for example "Here is a big shoe and here is a little one".
- use different types of items such as shoes, bricks, potatoes and socks.
- let the child help you to group the items into big and small ones, long and short, same and different.

Visual perception and memory

- use card games such as pairing.
- play picture lotto.
- develop visual memory by asking what is missing from a picture or scene.
- ask the child to copy sequential patterns.