

Communication Games: Speech and Language Therapy Homework Pack

March 2020

Verbal games for sitting down together

Talk for a minute about...

- Give a child a topic that they have to try and talk for a minute about; [see attached printable or viewable resource](#) to help you generate the topics to discuss.

I went shopping and I bought...

- Play this in a small group or with individual children and increase the number of items the child has to remember. Each child recites the shopping list and adds another item e.g. 'I went to the shops and bought a pineapple, a jigsaw and.....a ruler'. Variation: list activities e.g. 'On holiday I..... saw a fish, ate ice-cream, swam in the sea' etc.

Play "Simon says...."

- Encourage the child to listen to the instruction before carrying out the action, for example, clap your hands, touch your nose, stamp your feet.

Chinese Whispers

- One child whispers a message to the person next to them. This message could be related to a curriculum topic. The next child must pass this message to the next group member and so on around the circle until the message is relayed to the last person who says the message out loud. This can then be checked against the original message to see if it is the same!

What am I?

- The adult gives 3 or 4 attributes of an object (e.g. what it looks like, what you do with it, what it feels like, where you find it) and children have to guess what the object is. E.g. "You use me to clean your teeth. I come in a tube. I'm white and sticky. You put me on your toothbrush. What am I?" This task can be made easier by displaying a range of pictures in front of the children (e.g. elephant, tiger, monkey, t-shirt, banana).

Guessing Games

- Play games such as "heads up", "20 questions" or "guess who" type games ([see the printable/viewable headbands attached](#)). Put objects or pictures in a bag, take turns to choose one and then the other children ask questions to guess what the object is i.e. is it an animal? does it live on a farm? You could also play "I spy" games.

Story- Maker

- The children make a story by adding one word or phrase at a time. [See the attached printable/viewable fairytale story maker resource](#) using the visual pictures to aid story telling.

“I am”

- The group must listen to the leader who selects an item of clothing worn by one or more of the group (who’s wearing glasses, who’s wearing socks?). The person who is wearing the item must shout out ‘I am’.

Conversation Game

- See the attached printable/viewable conversation game board and tips resource; play the game with up to 4 people, using the tip cards to generate conversation and following the board around.

Picnic Game

- Auditory memory game to take turns saying what you are bringing to the picnic, using the attached printable/viewable picnic basket and images.

Name Something Game

- See the attached printable/viewable name something game; see if your child can name something beginning with a letter, or something of a certain colour or shape – just like I Spy!

Lego based games

- Encourage your child to give you instructions on how to build a simple model. Take turns and give them instructions on how to build something, see if they can guess what it is as they build it.
 - Easy – a tower with different coloured bricks.
 - Steps up – different sizes, or shapes of bricks, positional language (left, right, middle)
 - Steps down - Use sentence starters e.g. I should put the green on top of the.....
- Use a simple Lego kit. One person has the instructions from the kit, while the other has the pieces. The person with the instructions describes how to make the model. You do not need a physical barrier for this game.
 - Step down – use Duplo
 - Variation – offer 2 identical sets of bricks, ask children to make identical models.

Other communication games with resources around the house

Drawing activity

- Provide each child with some paper and identical pack of pens or coloured pencils. Have one child draw a picture and describe it. The other person has to try to make an identical picture.

Colouring activity

- Give each child an identical picture to colour (colouring pictures can be downloaded from a number of websites, or alternatively, draw your own), and an identical set of pens/pencils. One child colours their picture and describes it for the others to make theirs the same.

Do laundry and work on language skills!

- Ideas to try include giving instructions to:
 - Sort socks or shirts by size. All little socks go in one pile and all big socks go in another pile.

- Sort clothes by gender (girls vs boys)
- Sort clothes by colours

Verbal activities in small groups/pairs

Name Game

- A ball is thrown around the group. Each group member has to say someone else's name before throwing the ball to that person. It can be developed into the 'knock out name game' where by any group member that either fails to say the name of the person they are throwing the ball to, or fails to catch the ball, has to sit out.

Guess the emotion

- One child chooses an emotion and whispers it to his friend. The friend has to act it out and the person that chose it can help them if they are not doing it quite right. The rest of the group have to guess what the emotion is. To make it easier, have a range of pictures or words that the children have to guess from.

Describing people– physical characteristics

- Describe yourself and one other person in the group.
- Similarities and differences between people in the group.

Likes and dislikes

- Describe what you like and dislike (i.e. questions such as what is your favourite food)
- What are you good at.

Present your Partner

- The group agrees useful things to find out about a person. Pairs of children interview each other simultaneously and then take turns to present each other to the whole group.

Musical games

Tambourine: Pass a tambourine around the group in total silence. The aim is for no sound to be made, including the instrument.

Pass-a-sound / mime / squeeze. For example: Squeeze: Holding hands, a squeeze is passed from person to person. This is done silently and can be done 'invisibly' without looking at each other as the 'squeeze' occurs.

Zoom-beep: The word 'zoom' is passed around the circle with good eye contact from child to child. A child can choose to say 'beep' instead, which means the 'zoom' goes in the opposite direction.

Faces: A selected person thinks of a facial expression, gesture or a mime to pass round the group.

Listen for Sounds: The teacher counts to ten and then the children listen in silence for any sounds they hear e.g. a door shutting, a plane, children playing outside etc. Afterwards the children put their hands up to say something that they heard.

Movement games for more than 2 people

Who is the Leader?

- A child exits the room while a leader is chosen to make actions for the group to copy. On return the child has to guess who is starting the actions.

Fruit Basket

- The children are divided into groups and called a fruit name. The child in the centre calls a fruit name e.g. 'lemons!' All the lemons get up and change places while the centre child tries to take a place. The child left standing at the end becomes the one in the centre. If 'fruit basket' is called, everybody has to change places. Variation: group names are not given but the child calls out an attribute e.g. 'black hair', 'green socks'.

Magic Chair

- Eye contact game. Use a chair facing the semicircle of children; the chair can be decorated with tinsel or flags to make it visually magically/make it "special". Stand behind the "magic" chair and look down then up at a particular child. When you make eye contact the child comes and sits in the "magic chair". Once all the children understand what is expected of them reverse the roles so that the children take it in turns being the "looker" behind the chair.