

TEDDY'S BUSY DAY

Even if your child understands a lot of what you say, learning to use words and put them into sentences is a different skill which takes time and support.

One really helpful way to support your child's expressive language (the words they say) is to keep your own sentences short and clear when you talk with them. This is called modelling.

Modelling is when you show your child how to say something by saying it for them, rather than telling them to repeat it.

You're giving them the words they need, without pressure, so that they can hear how words go together and try it when they're ready.



EQUIPMENT

You will need:

- A teddy (or any soft toy/doll/figure)
- A few simple props: spoon, blanket, toy food, toy bed, bowl, cup, brush, etc.

OTHER WAYS TO PLAY

Laundry Talk.

- While doing the laundry, involve your child in sorting or putting clothes in the machine. Model simple phrases such as: "Socks in." "Shirt dirty." "All done." "Turn it on." "Wash clothes"

Bath Time Fun

- Use bath toys to model everyday language in a relaxed setting. Say things like: "Wash duck." "Splash water" "Boat go!", "All done."

REMEMBER: Try not to ask lots of questions, just describe and comment and celebrate any attempts to join in, even sounds or gestures.

HOW TO PLAY

Tell your child: "Teddy's going to have a busy day. Let's help him." Act out daily routines with Teddy, using short sentences to model what's happening.

Waking up
"Teddy wake up.", "Teddy stretch!", "Out of bed."

Eating
"Teddy eat.", "More toast.", "Teddy drink."

Getting dressed
"Teddy shirt on.", "Socks on.", "All done!"

Playtime
"Teddy jump!", "Teddy go car.", "Teddy play ball."

Bath time & Bedtime
"Teddy wash.", "Teddy in bed.", "Night night, Teddy."

Let your child lead when they want to, and simply model language one step ahead of their current level. If they say "Teddy," you say, "Teddy eat!" or "Teddy sleep.". If they say "Teddy sleep", you say "Teddy sleep in bed."