

WASH, SPLASH, POUR

Most children's first words are usually naming words (nouns) like "car," "mummy," "ball." These are great starting points, but to help children move from saying single words to putting words together, they also need to learn action words (verbs), like "go," "jump," "eat," "wash."

When a child knows both a thing (noun) and an action (verb), they can start to build 2-word phrases like: "Car go", "Mummy eat", "Wash hands"

Learning verbs gives children the tools to talk about what people or things are doing, which is a big step toward using short sentences.



EQUIPMENT

You will need:

- A washing-up bowl, water tray, or bucket
- Sponges, plastic cups, small bottles, brushes, spoons, toy plates or toy animals
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OTHER WAYS TO PLAY

Toy Play / Small World

Use dolls, cars, animals, or figures.

- Verbs: jump, run, sleep, eat, drive, hide
 - Model short phrases such as: "Car go.", "Dolly sleep.", "Dog eat."

Action Songs

- Use songs with movement and clear verbs: 🎵 "If You're Happy and You Know It" (clap, stomp) 🎵 "Sleeping Bunnies" (sleep, hop) 🎵 "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" (row, splash)

Everyday Routines

- Narrate what your child is doing: "You're brushing teeth.", "Let's wash hands." "Mummy is cutting apple."

HOW TO PLAY

Set up the bowl/ bucket with water and a range of objects. (You can do this in the bath too) Begin with using one action word at a time.

'Wash' is a great place to start. Say: "Let's wash the cup!", "Wash, wash, wash"

Use a sponge or brush to wash cups or toy animals. Encourage your child to copy or say "wash" with you. Keep the language simple and repeat lots.

Then add 'pour'. Use plastic cups or bottles. Model: "Pour the water!", "Tip, tip, tip!". Let your child pour into a bowl or onto a toy. Use a slow, clear voice: "Mummy pours... now you pour."

Then add 'splash'

Say: "Splash! Splash hands!" "Dolly splashes!" Encourage your child to splash gently with hands or toys.

Repeat the action word as they do it.

Even if they don't say it yet, hearing it in context helps them learn.