

TUBS AND BOXES

Shared attention is when you and your child are focused on the same thing and this is a key part of building language skills. A fun way to encourage this is by turning it into a "What's inside?" game with a bag of interesting items. Add some boxes and tubs too and you build in more turn taking opportunities and the chance to model extra language which you can repeat many times. The language opportunities for this activity are endless.



EQUIPMENT

You will need:

- A range of small tubs or containers with different openings.
- Small items from around the house to hide in the tubs. See 'how to play' for ideas.

OTHER WAYS TO PLAY

'Modelling key words such as 'open' shut' and 'noisy' (when you rattle the tubs) is a key part of this game.

However you can extend this by:

- Having matched items in two tubs so that you can group things as you find the pairs. This is a great way to repeat words more.
- Using the 'open' and 'shut' vocabulary in other activities such as opening doors.
- Matching the items by colour. This is for children who have more words so do not rush to this step.
- Placing the tubs around the house and going to find them.

HOW TO PLAY

Have a range of tubs and small boxes with different style openings and transparency. These can all be different or have ones that match depending on what you have available. Old margarine tubs, washed out cocoa tins and cottage cheese pots work really well, but you can also use any Tupperware that you have in your cupboard.

Fill each tub with an everyday item. Use items that are familiar to your child even if they do not use the words yet as the idea is to model and label as you go. You could use a sock, keys, a small ball and/food items such as raisins or a satsuma depending on your tub sizes.

Place the tubs in a bag or larger box. Take your turn, taking a tub from the bag and rattling it. As you do, use exclamatory noises and words such as "huh" "what's inside?" Open the tub (saying 'open' as you do it) and then take out the item, labelling it. E.g. "Look, its a sock....sock". Then encourage your child to have their turn, taking out a tub and following the routine.