

Ball

Talking activities with toys



Talk about what you and your child are doing

As a parent or caregiver, you play an important role in your child's language learning. Turn playtime with toys into back-and-forth interactions and help your child build their language. When playing together, talk about what you and your child are doing. Try these activities in your language.



With your baby

- Use a ball to encourage babbling. Say, "Bababa" and take turns tapping on the ball.
- If your child can sit up or crawl, roll the ball back and forth with them. As you roll the ball say, "Ball." Once your child knows this game, wait a few seconds before you roll the ball to them. Watch for their actions, facial expressions, and squeals to tell you they want you to roll the ball again.



With your toddler

- Match your words to what your child says. If they say 1 word at a time, you say 1 word at a time. Use words like, roll, kick, throw, down, up, and more.
- Use short phrases that they can copy like, "Kick the ball" or "The ball goes up." Repeat words and phrases over and over.



With your preschooler

- Hide the ball. Ask, "Where is it?" to help your child learn words like under, on, in, or behind. Talk about what kind of ball you have, like soccer ball, baseball, and so on. Talk about how the ball feels, like bumpy or smooth, soft or hard, big or small.
- Play ball with others. Let your child tell you what to do. They can say, "Roll the ball to me," "Kick the ball to Mommy," or "Bounce the ball to auntie." Take turns.



Where to get help

Speech-language pathologists can help. Learn more at ahs.ca/pedrehab.

These ideas can be used with other toys that move or can be passed back and forth like a car or bean bag.



For more information scan this QR code or visit: ahs.ca/talkbox

