



## Ideas for Reading and Writing Games to play at home

(These are not in any particular order and will vary on how long they take, it is also not an exhaustive list but all have been proven to be useful in helping develop children's speaking, listening, understanding, reading and writing skills. Please do come and see us if you want any of these games explaining.)

- Play **'I spy'** on the way to school, on journeys in the car. Try with sounds to start with and then use the names of letters.
- Make an **alphabet scrapbook** with cut out letters and pictures or drawings or writing of things that begin with that letter eg A a apple ant anchor.
- Make a **zig zag alphabet book**.
- Help your child **make their name** out of playdough, write it in the mud, in sand, using chalk outside.
- Play **snap** with letters - you can make your own cards or buy commercial sets.



- Play **lotto** with letters and / or pictures -
- There are lots of commercially available **board games** eg Orchard Toys, DK toys have a great selection of games for turn taking, developing speaking and numeracy skills

- **Make books** together eg holiday diary, or make up a story together and draw and write simple sentences.
- **Pass a story verbally** around the tea table - either well known traditional tales eg Red Riding Hood or make up your own stories.
- Make up a **treasure hunt** - write simple clues with pictures eg on the TV, under the table. As they get the idea you can link the hunt together so they lead to each other.
- Play **charades** eg action cards - child looks at the picture and acts out eg eating an apple, washing up cups. Again you can buy commercially available sets eg ELC or make your own.
- **Asking and answering questions** - Can you find .....eg something blue? Something blue and shiny? Can your child ask you questions.
- Play **'Hot and Cold'** - you choose an object in the room they move around and you say cold, colder, freezing, warm, warmer or boiling as they get further or nearer to the object. Swap over and let them be in charge of you.
- Play **'Why?'** ask a why question and listen to the answer, discuss their answer and praise it, let them try asking you. Eg Why do we have eyebrows? Why are bears furry?  
There isn't necessarily a right or wrong answer it is about helping them think of ideas and use language to express their ideas.
- Play **Simon Says** ... you only do what Simon says eg 'Simon says put your hands on your head, Simon says stand up' then you say 'Sit down' and they shouldn't do it because Simon didn't say it.