

Tips for supporting understanding of language

- **Name items** together when completing tasks, such as looking at a book, in the car, looking outside, while playing or when shopping.
- **Day to day activities:** When going shopping and visiting places, such as the park, encourage the child to talk about what you did and saw and possibly even draw or act out what happened.
- **Model new words:** Play activities with the child that they really enjoy and throughout the game model new words and phrases.
- **Explain new concepts** in different ways (e.g. With the concept of "wet": use water to wet things and talk about things that are wet and dry; look at pictures of things that are "wet"; if it rains, or the child is in the bath, talk about the concept of being "wet"; make up sentences and stories about being wet/dry). See the concepts advice sheet on the left
- **Simon says:** Take turns with the child in following and giving instructions., gradually increase the length of the command that is provided (e.g. 'Simon says touch your toes'; 'Simon says first touch your toes, then clap your hands'; 'Simon says before you shout and out to 10'). Additionally, reinforce body parts (e.g. pat your head, pull your ear) and simple verbs (e.g. jump, shake) when playing the activity.
- **Obstacle course:** Put together an obstacle course in the house or outside in the backyard. Take turns with the child in following and giving instructions. Gradually increase the length of the command that is provided (e.g. run to the sandpit; first run to the sandpit then crawl over to the bikes).
- **Feely bag game:** Place different everyday items/objects (e.g. toothbrush, car, cup, block) into a bag. Take turns with the child in taking an item out of the bag. Encourage the child to:
 - Reach into the bag and try to guess what the item is before taking it out.
 - Describe characteristics about the item once they have pulled it out of the bag (e.g. colour, shape, use/function).
 - Answer questions about the item that they have pulled out (e.g. Is it round? Can you eat it?).

- Guess the item that you have pulled out of the bag by asking you questions (e.g. Is it round? Can you eat it?).
- **Books:** Look at picture books with the child. Take turns in asking each other questions about the pictures (e.g. Who is in the picture? What is the girl/boy doing?). Try to think about what might happen next in the story and different possible endings.