Building Language at Home Through Play

Parent Learning Fest 2019
English Language Session for P1 & P2 Parents
Why Play?

Because it is the language of a child
Because it sparks joy
Why Play?
Parents must play a part in helping their children discover the joy of learning

Sandra Davie
Senior Education Correspondent
I strongly urge all parents to give our children the Time for their minds to imagine; Space for them to experiment and learn to embrace and take risks; and Opportunity to learn from failing, trying, re-learning and trying until they succeed.

Min. Ng Chee Meng, 5 March 2018
Because it gives them:

- time for their minds to imagine
- Space for them to experiment and learn to embrace and take risks
- Opportunity to learn from failing, trying, re-learning and trying

Why Play?
What is play?

- Adventurous & “Risky”
- Active
- Communicative
- Symbolic
- Interactive
- Enjoyable
- Therapeutic
- Involved
- Meaningful
- Voluntary
Why kind of play?

Productive Play that promotes Language & Literacy Growth
# Parents’ Role for Productive Play

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Planning for play</td>
<td>Create the environment and play possibilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Supporting play</td>
<td>Enrich the experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Reviewing play</td>
<td>Gather information during play and use it to extend learning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mini-Whiteboard Games

- **Listen & Draw**
  - Bring in different word classes: nouns, adjectives, prepositions

- **Pictionary**
  - Introduce new vocabulary
  - Use the spelling words

- **Word Relay**
  - Practice letter formation
  - Practice spelling
Listen & Draw

---

Draw a **big** circle in the **middle** of the page.

Draw a slightly **smaller** circle **inside** the big circle.

Draw a square **inside** the **smaller** circle, making sure that its corners touch the **smaller** circle.

Draw a **diagonal** line that cuts the square into two **equal** triangles.

Draw a **horizontal** line under the **biggest** circle.
Mini-Whiteboard Games

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# Mini-Whiteboard Games

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<tr>
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<th>Planning for play</th>
<th>Supporting play</th>
<th>Reviewing play</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 01 | Whiteboard & Marker  
Simple Pictures, Spelling List | Swap roles  
Ask questions to clarify  
Laugh together | What words/instructions did your child not get right? Use them again next time |
| 02 | Supporting play | | |
| 03 | Reviewing play | | |
Lego Games

- Lego Stories
  - Build storytelling skills
- Building Plans
  - Introduce procedural/explanation texts
- Build and Pretend Play
  - Build speech skills
- Relive Experiences
  - Build recount skills
Labelling

Relating Text-to-Text

Creating stories
Labelling

Creating stories

It was a dark night. Zoey, Zoey was right in bed. She was getting ready for her performance. She was the world's most famous singer. Every night she dreamed of stars.
Lego Games

- Lego Stories
  - Build storytelling skills
  - Writing - Creating texts
- Build and Pretend Play
  - Build speech skills
- Relive Experiences
  - Build recount skills
- Building Plans
  - Introduce procedural/ explanation texts
Expressive Speaking

Vocabulary - Adverbs
Buckle them ‘tightly’

Variety of Sentence Structures
Are you ready for the Captain Hook’s Rollercoaster?
If you are, then have fun!
### Lego Games

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>01</th>
<th>Planning for play</th>
<th>Lego Blocks, Mini-Whiteboard &amp; Marker, Paper &amp; Stationery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Supporting play</td>
<td>Model through Parallel Play, Ask Open-Ended Questions, Play the scribe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Reviewing play</td>
<td>Listen to/Read your child’s speech &amp; stories to take note of range of words and ideas</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Toy Box Games

- Pick & Tell
  - Build speech skills
- Toy Story
  - Build storytelling skills
  - Introduce linking words
1. Pick **ONE** picture card. Students can only pick the picture card once and are not allowed to change after making a choice.

2. **2 minutes** of preparation time will be given.

3. Begin by greeting with a smile ("Good morning, Ms Tan.").

4. Presentation of thoughts.
   - Free response – students are to begin presenting their thoughts without any prompting.
   - Teacher may only prompt when necessary.

5. End the Pick and Tell by thanking with a bow.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENT</th>
<th>LANGUAGE</th>
<th>PRESENTATION SKILLS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relevance of ideas</td>
<td>- Talks about <strong>four or more</strong> ideas that are <strong>relevant</strong> to given topic</td>
<td>- Speaks <strong>confidently</strong> and at an <strong>appropriate volume</strong> most of the time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammatical sentences</td>
<td>- Uses grammatically correct sentences <strong>most of the time</strong></td>
<td>- Maintains <strong>eye contact</strong> with the audience most of the time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How audible the child is during the presentation</td>
<td>The child’s ability to maintain eye contact with the audience</td>
<td></td>
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# Toy Box Games

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<th>Supporting play</th>
<th>Role Model</th>
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<td>02</td>
<td></td>
<td>Remind about the 5 story elements</td>
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<th>Reviewing play</th>
<th>Was your child able to deliver a complete and cohesive speech/story with details?</th>
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Bookshelf Games

● Word Hunt
  ○ Word recognition
  ○ Vocabulary building

● Book Spine Story/Book Spine Poetry
  ○ Storytelling Ideas
  ○ Sentence-forming Practice
# Bookshelf Games

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<td>Pick out vocabulary in advance</td>
<td>Role Model/Play Together</td>
<td>What words does your child have difficulty recognising?</td>
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An Invitation to Read/Play
Connecting Play to School
For the ‘Academic’ Parent

Use the school’s

- Spelling lists,
- High frequency word list (P1),
- unit worksheets
- writing tasks
- Writer’s Notebook
References & Resources

http://www.ncca.biz/Aistear/pdfs/Guidelines_ENG/Play_ENG.pdf

https://www.fluentu.com/blog/educator/language-games-for-kids/

http://www.hanen.org/Helpful-Info/Early-Literacy-Corner/Critical-Thinking.aspx

https://www.britishcouncil.my/english/courses-children/resources/facilitate-language-development-through-play

renee_yuanna_sulaiman@moe.edu.sg