



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE
THERAPY PRACTICE

Teaching Language Skills Through Play: Mr & Mrs Potato Head

In order to promote language development and successful play skills you need to incorporate the following when engaging in play with your child:

- Model language and appropriate play for your child to copy.
- Join your child at play. Your child is more likely to respond if you are engaging with a toy / activity that they are interested in.
- Comment on what you and your child are doing. Your comments should be short and focused on their play.

Below are some ideas you can use when playing with Mr / Mrs Potato Head with your child. Pick a couple of ideas that you feel comfortable with and give them a go!

- Ask your child to find the body parts and clothing as you say the name (e.g. "Can you find shoes?").
- Encourage your child to name associated body parts and clothing while you play.
- As you are identifying Mr / Mrs Potato Head's body parts, point out your own and your child's body parts too (e.g. "Here are Mr Potato Head's eyes. Where are your eyes?").
- Expand your child's body part vocabulary. Once the basic body parts have been mastered, focus on introducing other body parts (e.g. elbow, knee, mustache etc).
- Comment on what your child is doing while they play (e.g. "I like the way you put Mr Potato Head's shoes on").
- If you have several pieces for Mr / Mrs Potato Head, compare them highlighting what is the same and what is different.
- Ask your child to find the body part, when you provide them with the associated sense (e.g. "Put on what Mrs Potato Head needs to smell").
- If you have two or three Potato Heads, once you have put them together you can ask your child to tell you a story about what they are going to do. Have fun using them as characters.

Check out the other Speak To Me “Teaching Language Skills Through Play” worksheets for more ideas to try at home.