



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE
THERAPY PRACTICE

Teaching Language Skills Through Play: Cars, Trucks & Vehicles

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 cars, trucks and vehicles with your child. Pick a couple of ideas that you feel comfortable with and give them a go!

- Choose cars, trucks and / or other vehicles that match your child's interests. Play with a varied selection of vehicles (different types, colours and sizes) and mention these differences spontaneously during play.
- Name the different parts of each vehicle with your child (e.g. doors, windows, propellers, wings, lights, wheels, tires, horns, hood etc).
- Play with a selection of vehicles and talk about where you find them and who might be in them (e.g. cars on the road, mummy driving car, boats in the water, captain sailing the boat, helicopter in the sky, pilot flying helicopter).
- If playing with specialized vehicles (e.g. fire engines, ambulances, or police cars), use associated vocabulary (e.g. policeman, fireman, nurse) and sounds.
- If you have two or more different types of vehicles talk about how they are the same or different (e.g. "The motorbike has two wheels, the car has four").
- Use boxes, bridges, roads and ramps and include preposition words (e.g. up, under, on top, in between, through etc).
- Comment on what your child is doing when they are playing with the vehicles.
- Make the sounds that match each vehicle, encourage your child to make the sounds too.

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