

Encouraging Language Around Social Interaction

What a child can do today with assistance, they will be able to do by themselves tomorrow.

Lev S Vygotsky



Modelling Strategies:

Give examples of what a child might say to be able to join in or be able to work in a group:

'Can I join in?' 'Please can I have some?'

Notice and draw attention to children initiating interactions:

"What a great idea to ask Harry to help. Remember to tell him how to turn the hose off when he is finished."

When playing a game:

The concept of taking turns can be emphasised and the language 'my turn', 'Harry's turn' etc can be modelled and practiced.

Turn Taking Games: Put cars down a ramp, operate a toy, such as a Jack in the box, pop up frog, catch a fish in a fishing game, posting pictures into a post box, throwing bean bags into a hoop. **Remember follows the child's interest, then they will be more motivated to join in.**



Role Play

Role play allows children to practise social language.

Create role play areas that follows the children's interest in example, a train station or a vet.



Parachute Games

Parachute games are a great way to get children to socially interact with others in a safe setting.

You will need: A large parachute or large piece of brightly coloured fabric.

What to do:

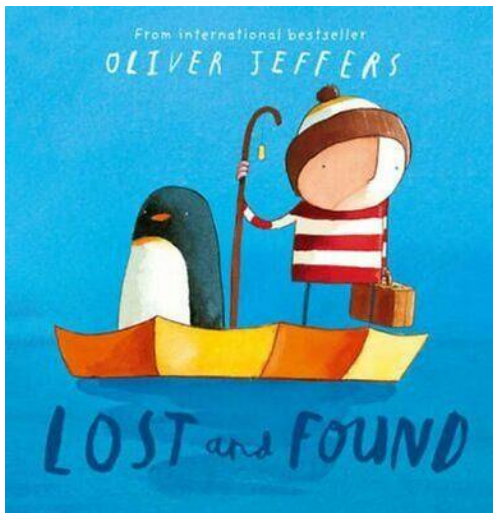
Encourage the children to play alongside.

Encourage the children to hold the edge and say 'ready, steady.... go' – as you lift the parachute up into the air – *'whoosh!'*

You can put light items onto the parachute to make them bounce up and down such as teddies and balls.



Picture Books



Using books to talk about social interaction can provide children with strategies and language they need to play amongst a group.

Relate stories to personal experiences:

“Can you think of a time when someone wouldn’t let you play?”

“How did you feel?”

Talk about possible solutions to problems that occur in the book:

“What can the boy do now?” ... “he could ask his dad for a cuddle... he could ask his mum if he can have another biscuit.”

Remember to give time with the child to think and come up with ideas for themselves.

Talk about ‘what ifs....’

“What would happen if the little boy snatched his friend’s scooter?”

Picture books with friendship themes:

Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers

Dream Big Little Mole by Lisa Sheehan

Just Being Ted by Tom Percival

Horrible Bear! by Ame Dyckman

Elmer’s Friend by David McKee

I’m Sticking with You by Smriti Halls

The Missing Piece by Jordan Stephens and Beth Suzanna

Everybody Feels Shy by Moira Harvey

