

Using Balls to Support Speech and Language Development

Interaction Skills

Making choices - hold out two different coloured balls and encourage the child to make a choice.

Taking turns - take turns to roll or throw the ball into a hoop.

Requesting - encourage the child to ask for 'more'.

Eye contact - encourage the child to look at you before you give them the ball.

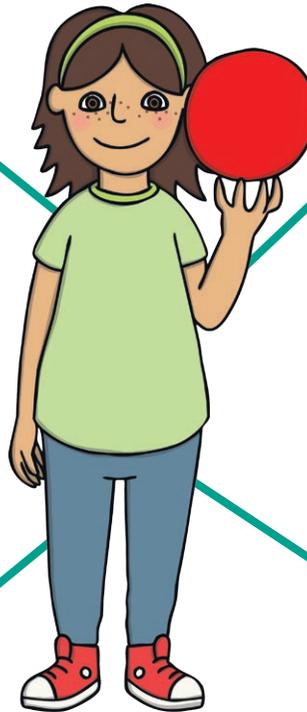
Develop shared attention - look at the ball when it is rolled and encourage the child to look with you.

Listening skills - encourage the child to wait for a command phrase before rolling the ball e.g. 'ready, steady, go!'.

Speech

Work on the initial /b/ sound. Encourage the child to make the /b/ sound when the ball is bouncing.

Label six bowls with the numbers one to six. Ask the child to throw the ball into a bowl and say the sound /b/ the same number of times as the number card on the bowl.



Expressive Language Skills

One word phrases - use the words 'go', 'throw', 'stop', 'more', 'in', 'roll', 'ball', 'bounce' and 'again'.

Simple phrases - encourage the use of 'ready, steady, go!'.

Colours - use different colours to describe the balls e.g. 'the blue/yellow/green ball'.

Size - e.g. 'big/small ball'.

Verbs - 'throw', 'kick', 'roll', 'bounce'.

Concepts - 'hard/soft', 'up/down', 'fast/slow'.

Prepositions

See if the child can follow simple instructions that involve the prepositions 'on', 'in' and 'under'. For example, 'put the ball on the box', 'put the ball under the table'.

