



HELLO PARENTS,

OWLing is all about being a good conversation partner. OWL stands for three separate skills: observing, waiting, and listening. OWLing is an important strategy that you can use with your child throughout an interaction. When you OWL, you open up all sorts of opportunities for communication. You may even discover that your child is communicating more than you realize. Observing is, paying close attention to what the child is saying or doing. Waiting, gives the child time to initiate or to show interest in something. Listening is essential. Rather than thinking about what to say next, listen to your child so you can respond appropriately to what the child says. In this newsletter we will provide activities that will help develop these skills.

ACTIVITIES INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

CRINKLE AND CRUNCH

MATERIALS:

- Pieces of wrapping paper or paper

DIRECTIONS:

- Crinkle a piece of paper or wrapping paper, out of your child's line of vision on one side of their body.
- Make the crinkle sound on the other side of their body.
- Crunch the paper over your child's head or behind their back. If they are listening carefully, they may laugh or look surprised. They may look toward the sound, turn their head, or reach for the paper.

[Click here](#) to learn more about OWL (Observe Wait Listen).

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

CATCH THE DRIZZLE

MATERIALS:

- A mug or a bucket
- Rainy day

DIRECTIONS:

- When it starts to rain, ask your child to find a bucket or a mug and put it outside.
- Wait and watch as the rain fills the mug or the bucket.
- After the mug or bucket is completely full, bring it inside.
- Throw out the water, and put it outside under the rain again.
- Watch the bucket or mug while it gets filled again with rain water. This would be a different and interesting way to teach children how to wait.

[Click here](#) to read "Waiting Is Not Easy!" By Mo Willems.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

WHAT ANIMAL MADE THAT SOUND?

MATERIALS:

- Different animal sounds from YouTube
- Scarf

DIRECTIONS:

- [Click here](#) for animal sounds.
- Put a scarf over your child's eyes.
- Turn the YouTube video on and have your child guess what animal makes that sound.
- Another way of playing this game is to hand your child animal toys or pictures of animals, and then ask them to point to the animal that makes the particular sound.

[Click here](#) to read "The Listening Walk" by Paul Showers.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

WHAT'S IN THE BAG?

MATERIALS:

- 2 identical bags of objects, including pencils, paper clips, flashlights, marbles, erasers, etc.

DIRECTIONS:

- Make two groups and have the group members sit one behind the other on the floor or at a desk.
- Give the first person in line a bag full of those materials mentioned above.
- The first person in line will take an object from the bag, observes it and without turning around passes it backward.
- When the object reaches the last person, they will hide it in an empty bag.
- When all the materials are observed and hidden in the bag, the group will have to record or mention all the materials hidden.
- The group who remembers the most items wins.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

THAT IS HOW WE ROLL

MATERIALS:

- Pen
- Paper
- Dice

DIRECTIONS:

- Write a list of questions that you would want the children to answer.
- The questions can be icebreakers or the ones that elicit opinions or thoughts. For example: Would we have flying cars in 2030?
- Give each player a copy of those questions and make sure they are numbered.
- Take turns at rolling the dice. The players have to answer the question from the number they get on the dice.
- This is a great opportunity to observe, wait and listen.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

To learn more about The Hanen Program which reflects OWL please [click here](#).



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Sometimes it is hard to know what is on your child's mind. Taking the time to observe their body language, actions, gestures and facial expressions will help you figure it out.
- Your child may be used to everyone else doing the communication for them. Waiting will send them the message that you are ready for them to respond to you or, better still, to take the lead themselves.
- When you listen to your child's message, you are also letting them know that what they say, is important to you. This helps build their confidence and self-esteem.