



## VIRTUAL CHILDCARE PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES

VOLUME #98

### THE THREE T'S OF COMMUNICATION - TALKING MORE, TAKE TURNS, TUNING IN

## HELLO PARENTS,

Communication is fundamental to children's development; children need to be able to understand and be understood. Communication is the foundation of relationships and is essential for learning, play and social interaction. Talking to your child is more than saying words. It is important to pay attention to the number of words you say, but also the quality of those words. In this newsletter, you will explore how to effectively communicate with your child by **talking more, taking turns and tuning in**.

## ACTIVITIES

### INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

#### OPEN SHUT THEM – FINGER PLAY SONG

Open, shut them, (open and close both hands in front of baby),  
Open, shut them,  
Give a little clap, clap, clap (clap each time you say "clap"),  
Open, shut them, open, shut them, (open and close both hands in front of baby),  
Lay them in your lap, lap, lap (pat your legs each time you say "lap"),  
Creepy crawly, creepy crawly,  
Right up to your chin, chin, chin (crawl fingers up baby's chest to their chin),  
Open up your little mouth (open your mouth),  
But do not let them in in in (quickly put your hands behind your back).

[Click here](#) for "Where is Thumbkin?" finger play song.

### TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

#### TELEPHONE GAME

##### MATERIALS:

- A toy phone or real phone

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Get two toy telephones and pretend that you are dialling your child's number to call them.
- Encourage your child to pick up the phone and answer.
- Teach them how to say "hello" when they answer the phone.
- Use this activity as an opportunity to extend your child's vocabulary, and establish a conversation.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

### PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

#### GUESS THE OBJECT

##### MATERIALS:

- Medium/large box
- Various objects from around the house
- Scissors

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Cut a hole in a box that is large enough to fit your child's hands.
- Make sure they understand that they are not allowed to peak into the hole.
- Place an object in the box. Have your child describe what the object feels like.
- Take turns guessing different objects.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

### JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

#### BAKE ON! OWL CUPCAKES

##### MATERIALS:

- 1 box chocolate cake batter, plus ingredients on the box
- 1 (16-oz.) tub chocolate frosting
- 24 Oreos, separated in half
- 48 chocolate mini M&Ms
- 24 orange mini M&Ms
- Muffin tins
- Cupcake liners
- Toothpick

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Preheat oven to 350°F.
- Line 2 12-cup muffin tins with cupcake liners.
- Prepare cupcake batter according to package directions.
- Scoop cupcake batter into liners and bake until a toothpick inserted in the centre comes out clean, 22 to 25 minutes. Let it cool.
- Spread the chocolate frosting on the cupcakes. Make two lines on top of the cupcake for ears!
- Put the Oreo halves on top of the cupcake, with the icing side facing upwards.
- Use chocolate and orange M&M's for eyes and nose.
- Baking with children is a great opportunity to spark conversation and extend their vocabulary. This encourages children to talk about what they are doing.

[Click here](#) to read "Big Pig" by Julie M. Wood

### SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

#### BLINDFOLD DIRECTIONS

##### MATERIALS:

- Four or more players
- Blindfolds
- Various "obstacles" such as boxes, chairs or books

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Construct an obstacle course with your materials.
- Divide your players into teams of two. Tie a blindfold on one member of each team and have them stand at the "start" of the obstacle course.
- The second member of each team must then guide the blindfolded member through the course by calling out directions.
- This game encourages cooperation, successful teamwork and trust, which is crucial for effective communication.

[Click here](#) for vocabulary games.



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada

#### A TIP FOR TODAY

- **Narrate your own experience.** Talk about what you are seeing, feeling, thinking and doing. By sharing your experiences through language, you can build your child's vocabulary and help them understand the world.
- **Use parallel speech.** Talk to your child about what they are doing, seeing, hearing, tasting or touching. Describe what they are doing or who they are with. Establish eye contact with your child and talk about things in their immediate environment.
- **Be specific.** Use descriptive language and be specific.
- **Talk about the past and the present.** Use your language to help your child remember things they have seen and done or are currently seeing and doing.
- **Expand and extend.** Expand your child's language skills by turning their simple language into longer, more complicated speech. Turn "More!" into, "Do you want to eat more?" You can expand your child's language by helping them to learn a better way to say something.