

Activities for Encouraging Speech and Language Development in the Home

- ✓ **Read Books!** The NEW Addison Public Library is a wonderful place to find resources for helping develop your child's language skills. Visit the library and let your child choose books that interest him/her. Read the books to your child. Ask Who, What, When, Where, and Why questions. Have your child predict what will happen next. Have your child retell the story in his/her own words.
- ✓ **In the Car!** When you are riding in the car search for road signs (traffic light, railroad, speed limit, etc.). Have your child explain what they mean. Look for different types of transportation such as cars, trucks, buses, and bikes. Play "I Spy" and see how many things you can find in different categories (ex: things that are yellow, things that are round, things that are big, etc.).
- ✓ **Watch TV!** Even your child's favorite TV show can be turned into a learning activity! Watch the show with your child. Talk with your child about the show he/she is watching. Ask your child to tell you what might happen next. When it is over have your child tell three things that happened. Ask questions such as "What was the show about?" "Who were the characters?" "What was your favorite part?" Have your child draw a picture about the show that summarizes what happened and tell about it.
- ✓ **Around the House!** So many resources can be found right in your own home! Match sets of objects with your child and tell why they go together (ex: fork and spoon, lock and key, pencil and eraser, shoe and sock, hammer and nail). Arrange objects (ex: coins, toy cars, cups, socks, lids) in size order from smallest to largest so your child can learn comparison words such as big, bigger, biggest and small, smaller, smallest. Sort laundry into categories such as socks, towel, shirts. Plays objects in your child's hand and have him describe it using at

least two or three words (ex: "It's round, heavy, and smooth." for a rock).

- ✓ **Outside!** Play games in the yard or in the park when the weather is nice. Go outside and give your child the hose. Ask your child to turn on the hose and find things (ex: find something green, something dirty, something tall, something round, etc). Play a guessing game. Give clues and see if your child can guess what you are talking about (ex: "It barks, it wags its tail, and it has fur."). Switch and let your child give the clues. Play "Simon Says" to work on your child's ability to follow directions. Make the directions increasingly longer to see if he/she can remember two steps or three steps (ex: "Touch your toes, clap your hands, and stomp your feet.").

- ✓ **Adventures!** Turn everyday trips into an adventure! Have your child search for certain food groups (vegetables, fruits, breads, etc) at the grocery store. Your child can also sort things in the cart (ex: "Put the yellow foods together."). Work on action words during walks or at the park. Have your child answer questions such as "What is he doing?" (Swinging, running, flying a kite, digging, etc.). When you come home from trips have your child tell someone else where you went, what you saw, and what you did. You can work on having your child tell what happened first, second, and last.