

### Top Tips to Develop Language Through Pretend Play

- ✓ Pretend and imaginary play are great ways of helping children's language development.
- ✓ Use soft toys, small world play, toy animals, puppets, play food, toy tea sets, kitchens, dressing up clothes. Cardboard boxes are often the best tool for pretend play!

### Activities to Try



- Use the toys to have a pretend picnic, bath, tea party, go to nursery, shopping.
- Tell well known stories using the puppets/toys and see if your child can tell the story with you.

- Make up simple stories - see if your child can join in or copy your story or help you decide what will happen next.



- Demonstrate how a cardboard box can be used to 'be' a washing machine, a car, a house, a spaceship etc.
- Make the toys/puppets talk to each other.
- Make the toys do silly things!



- Mime actions and make noises e.g. pretend to turn a tap on and make water noise - 'sh....'

#### Top tips to remember:

- ✓ Pick a quiet time when you are unlikely to be distracted.
- ✓ Turn off the television, radio etc. so you and your child can pay attention.
- ✓ Play for a short period of time & repeat often.
- ✓ Use short sentences to talk about what is happening. Try not to ask too many questions.
- ✓ Give your child praise for their ideas.
- ✓ Let your child lead the play and join in.