

Everyday Experiences

March/April 2020

Your participation is crucial to the development and carryover of your child's language skills. You can help them learn to use their vocabulary and skills in a variety of everyday settings. Here's an activity to try with your child that incorporates many language skills!

This week's activity for your child: Drawing with chalk on the sidewalk! A variety of shapes can be drawn, which provides you with a variety of ways to discuss vocabulary with your children. You can draw (or trace if your child lets you) a body and body parts, create animals, draw and discuss plants, or just have fun using the chalk, feeling the texture, and making lines! It's okay if you're unable to go outside due to weather or to safety concerns, you can always modify this activity by drawing inside using chalk or crayons on paper. The idea is to just get some dedicated one on one time with you and your child to participate in the same activity together, and to model language while you're participating in that activity. Also, don't be afraid to go big! If your child is tired of drawing on smaller sheets of paper, try taping and combining sheets to make bigger paper and see if it inspires your child to participate more!

Vocabulary that may be used: *chalk, colors, sidewalk, draw, write, push, open, animals, flowers, shapes, big, little, look, listen, on top of, under, next to, in, on, first, next, outside, inside, wall, driveway, hopscotch, jump, tic tac toe, eyes, nose, mouth, hair, hand, foot, leg, arm, head, ears, erase, trace, etc.*

Ways to elicit language:

1. **Describing:** Describe what you see and what things are happening around you (I'm going to draw a picture of you. We can trace your body on the sidewalk with chalk. You need eyes, a nose, a mouth, ears, etc. Your hair is brown.)
2. **Answering questions:** (What do you want to draw? What animals do you see at the zoo? Does the zebra have stripes? Who is drawing circle?)
3. **Sequences:** (What do we do next? - from putting shoes/coat on, to getting out the chalk, through drawing pictures, and returning home)
4. **Additional Play Ideas:** Draw a hopscotch board, trace a body outline, draw shapes, write the alphabet or numbers, create roads or an outdoor board game, draw the view in front of you (e.g. house, playground, animals, etc.).

*Sometimes your child may not know the answer to a question, may not be able to answer it verbally, or may not know what comes next in a sequence, and that's okay!! What's important in these moments is that **you** model and provide answers to those questions for your child. This helps expose your child to new, different ways to answer that question! Also remember, pointing, gesturing, and looking are all forms of communication too!*