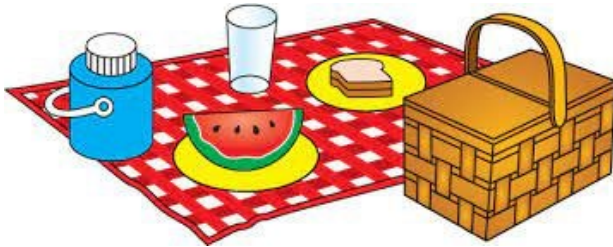


LISTENING

LEARN TO LISTEN WHILE HAVING A PICNIC!

THINK ABOUT . . .

A simple activity that can easily be done with materials at your house. This activity targets receptive and expressive language by encouraging your child to ask questions and helping them listen for key details in multi-step directions. Using strategies such as wait time and acoustic highlighting will help your child strengthen their auditory memory.



ACTIVITY

- 1- Arrange the food and stuffed animals/toys so the child can easily reach them.
- 2- Explain that each stuffed animal/toy is hungry but you don't know what they want to eat. Model asking a question such as, "What would you like to eat?" Encourage your child to ask the question to one of the stuffed animals/toys.
- 3- Respond to your child's question by requesting 2 items, such as "I would like an apple and a cookie." One way to help your child remember both items is using acoustic highlighting. This can be done by saying the words a little louder or changing the intonation of your voice for the words "apple" and "cookie." Wait for 7-10 seconds for your child to give the two items.
- 4- If your child gives the incorrect items or only gives 1/2 items, you can respond playfully by saying "Ew, I don't like carrots!" You can then give the child another opportunity to remember the words by repeating the direction. Having your child repeat the words back to you before carrying out the action is another great strategy to improve their listening skills.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 2-5 stuffed animals or toys (e.g., action figures, movie figurines, lego people, etc.)
- Food (real or pictures)
- Blanket (optional)

PREPARATION:

- 1- Cut out food items or put 4-5 different food items in separate bowls
- 2- Display the food so that your child can easily identify and reach it
- 3- Gather the toys/stuffed animals into one room – you can do this activity sitting on the ground (inside or outside) or around a table

VOCABULARY:

- Sandwich
- Carrot
- Apple
- Cookie
- Cup
- Plate
- Napkin
- Fork
- Spoon
- Knife
- Lemonade
- Pronouns: I, you

HELPFUL TIPS:

- You can adjust the difficulty based on your child's individual needs. If your child is just beginning to follow directions, start with 1 item. Alternatively, if your child can easily remember 2 items, try challenging them by giving them 3-4 items. You could also switch it up and direct the child to give two items to two different toys (e.g., Give an apple to the dog and a banana to the bear).
- Let your child take the lead. If they want to take a turn deciding what the stuffed animal/toy wants to eat, let them. This allows you to model following your child's directions, as well as helps keep them engaged.

Special thanks to graduate students in the Listening and Spoken Language Deaf Education graduate training program at Utah State University. These pages can be reproduced for educational purposes.

© Utah State University, Department of Communicative Disorders and Deaf Education



