

Using Building Bricks to Support Speech and Language Development

Interaction Skills

Making choices – hold out two different coloured building bricks to the child and encourage them to make a choice.

Taking turns - take turns to add the building bricks to the tower.

Requesting – encourage the child to ask for more bricks.

Eye contact – encourage the child to look at you and give eye contact before you give them the building bricks.

Develop shared attention - model looking at the tower when it falls down and encourage the child to look.

Speech

When putting a block on the tower, encourage the child to make the target sound.

Put speech sound cards under the blocks then encourage the child to say what is on the card, before putting the block on the tower.

Expressive Language Skills

One word phrases – ‘go’, ‘brick’, ‘stop’, ‘more’, ‘on’ ‘tower’ and ‘again’.

Encourage – ‘ready, steady, go!’

Colours – use different colours to describe the building blocks, e.g. ‘the yellow building blocks’, ‘the red block’.

Size - talk about different sizes of brick, e.g. ‘big brick, small brick’.

Verbs - use words such as, ‘build’, ‘knock over’ and ‘make’.

Concepts – use bricks to teach the concepts: top/bottom, up/down and same/different.

Chant

After building the tower say the following chant: ‘wibble wobble, wibble wobble, ready steady (pause) go!’ Then let the child knock the tower down.

