



**Games and Activities to play with your  
child using Animals**

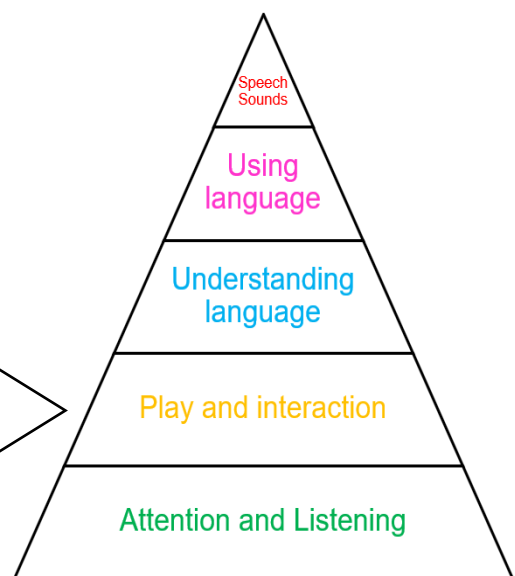
**This list of play activities and games will support sharing a fun experience with your child whilst at home. There are a range of skills these activities will support:**

- Attention & Listening skills
- Communication skills
- Developing relationships between an adult and a child
- Eye contact skills
- Fine motor skills
- Role play skills
- Self-help skills
- Social skills

- ✓ Model the play actions to your child.
- ✓ Use key words to teach new vocabulary e.g. *'fish swimming'*.
- ✓ You can adapt the ideas to meet your child's interests ~ use dinosaurs instead of animals if your child prefers dinosaurs.
- ✓ Start with one or two simple actions and build up gradually.
- ✓ Repeat the actions as this can be helpful in teaching a new skill.
- ✓ Extend your child's play by adding another action e.g. if your child can wash the animals, add another action of drying the animals, until your child can build up a simple sequence of play actions.
- ✓ Do not worry if your child does not want to join in with a particular activity, try another one.
- ✓ Remember to fully engage in the play and have fun.



Play and interaction is part of the basis for Speech, Communication and Language development





**Animals / dinosaurs in sensory materials**



**Animal printing**

You can place a toy animal's foot in paint and make animal trails on paper. Try stamping, rolling, sliding the toy animal across the paper or tray.

**Mud play**

Take the animals into the garden and explore the mud e.g. getting the pigs to roll around in the mud. If you do not have a garden, you can use a tray with chocolate powder and water.

**Bathing the animals**

At bath time encourage your child to wash the animals whilst they are washing. Use soap and flannels to encourage play.



**Jump and wash dinosaur play**

Set up a washing up bowl with a ruler and a box next to it and get the animals / dinosaurs to balance and walk along and jump into the water.

**Shredded paper**

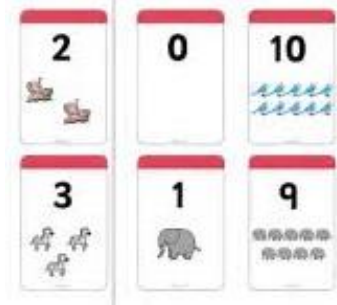
Encourage your child to engage with the animal / dinosaur play in the shredded paper. Slowly encourage them to put the animals / dinosaurs deeper into the paper as the play progresses. Bury and find like hide and seek.

**Animal assault course**

Make an assault course from masking tape or cushions on the floor. Follow the assault course laid out and on the way your child can collect an animal, or the animal can do the assault course with the child.



**Animal games**



**Hide and seek**  
Hide the animals underneath plastic cups, pull one cup up at a time and make the animal sounds.

**Dinosaurs on ice**  
Use a tray and add water and freeze. When frozen encourage your child to make the dinosaurs glide across the ice.

**Animal number games**  
Write / draw number and animal cards and support your child in matching the animals to the number cards.

**Animal role play**



**Old MacDonald had a farm**  
Sing 'Old MacDonald had a farm' and pick out the animals when singing the song and make the sounds.







**Animal exercise**  
Encourage your child to choose an animal or look at the animal they are playing with. Then match the action with that animals for example:

- Jump like a frog
- Slither like a snake
- Have a trunk like an elephant.

**Role play**  
Play with your child showing them how to make the animals eat / drink. You can make the noises. Have props including a bowl of water and green card for grass and some leaves.





Environments		
 	 	 
<p><b>Home building</b> Build your animal a home. This could be with blocks or cardboard boxes with grass, straw, tissue paper or other materials to create an environment for your child to play with the animals in.</p>	<p><b>Animals in the sea</b> You can put the sea animals in a zip lock bag and add hair gel, water or paint to create a sea like experience. Encourage your child to touch the bag.</p>	<p><b>Freeze the dinosaurs</b> Place a dinosaur in a balloon then fill it with water. Put this balloon in the freezer to freeze. When frozen cut the balloon and give the child a toy hammer to break the dinosaur out of the egg or watch it melt.</p>

To find out more / Useful links
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://ican.org.uk/i-cans-talking-point/parents/ages-and-stages/">https://ican.org.uk/i-cans-talking-point/parents/ages-and-stages/</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/play-ideas-and-reading/">https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/play-ideas-and-reading/</a></li> </ul>