

Car Games

Car trips at times can be long and tedious with young children. However they are also a great opportunity to expand their language skills and just spend time talking together, as you have a captive audience! Communication is all about talking and interacting with other people, which at times can become difficult in our busy lives. Here's some ideas to try next time you are in the car together with the kids:



Describing

- **Come up with words that mean the *opposite* of...**
eg, hot – cold, fast – slow, beautiful, boy; heavy, empty, day, tall, fat
- **Same and Different**
Work out what is same and different between...
eg, car – plane, tennis ball – racquet, tiger – fish, koala – crocodile, snake – turtle, shorts – hat, pencil – paint
- **Guessing game:** One player picks a 'secret' item. The other people asks *Yes/No* questions to work out what the item is. To begin you may need to name the category *eg, animal, plant, food, clothes, in our house, at school etc...*
- **Name 5 types of (Categories)**
Categories to try include: fruit, food, sweet things, animals, vehicles, jobs, sports etc...
eg, fruit – apple, pear, banana, watermelon, strawberries
- **Name parts of ...**
eg, body, car, teapot, table, tree, chicken
- **Name things you can**
eg, drink from, write on, ride on, , draw with, swim in, eat with, dig with, sit on, play with

Early sounds and letters

- Play 'I Spy' using the sound that the words starts with.
- Come up with your own rhyming words... they may be real or made up words!
- Think of as many words as you can that start with a certain sound
eg. b – ball, baby, bee, balloon

Story telling

- Create a story together, where each person has a turn at deciding what happens next in the story. It can be real or imaginary, silly or sensible! Think about how the characters feel or what they could say.
- For younger kids, keep it simple! Try using the same repetitive sentence over and over again. You could also model it on book your child might be familiar with.
eg. a robot was hungry so he ate an apple pie. Then he ate a strawberry and carrot. Then he ate some chips and sauce. He felt so full that he had to lie down and go to bed.

If you're concerned about your child's language development or any of the above areas, contact a speech pathologist to discuss whether assessment for your child is indicated.



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