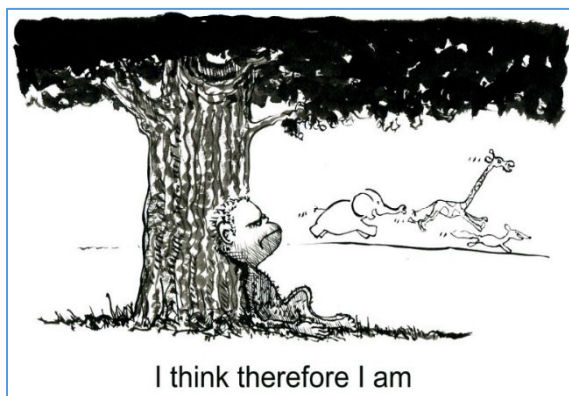


LANGUAGE IN A PINCH



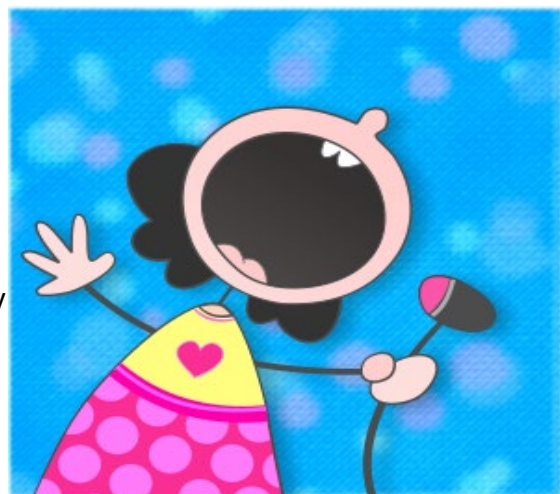
What Am I Thinking Of?

This game is a lot of fun and needs nothing but your imagination. You can pick a category or select items at random. Whoever starts the game will describe an item (i.e., I'm thinking of an animal that lives in a jungle. It has many bright colours. It likes to hang out in tree tops. It has a long beak. It can fly...). The child can guess whenever they have an idea of what the item could be. When the child guesses correctly they can officially read your thoughts.

Sing for Language Development

Singing is a great way to develop oral language as well as, learning some catchy tunes. There are some great songs out there that are easy to learn, engaging, and best of all, many adults know them already! Songs like, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, Old McDonald had a farm, BINGO. Singing together can target many social and communication goals. Best of all, it's so FUN! Take the opportunity to pause throughout the song and have your child fill in the missing words i.e Twinkle, twinkle little ____ (star). For examples of children's songs to sing please click on the following link:

[Great Children's Songs](#)



This is a fun little game that can be played anywhere where waiting happens. It can be before dinner, at the doctor's office, at a restaurant, etc. Someone takes a coin and hides it. The child will need to guess where the coin is hidden. They will use questions using prepositions to guess where the item could be, for example "Is it **beside** microwave?", "Is it **under** the flower pot?". It's a good idea to give some examples of the types of questions to ask so the child understand. Spatial vocabulary that can be used can include: on , off, around, above, below , top, bottom, over, under, between, inside, outside, near, far, next to, beside, and through.



PLAY



Pretend play is a great way to introduce new vocabulary and play out situations that may actually occur. For example, If your child has an upcoming doctor's or dentist's appointment. Pretend to be a doctor or dentist and walk through the visit. You can put on items you have around the house to help get into character but costumes aren't necessary, just a vivid imagination. Some ideas include: dress up, grocery store, doctor, dentist, house, family, chef, builder, or teacher. While playing you can practice language skills like vocabulary, story telling, and sequencing.

Language Tips for Parents



These strategies are created from current research which shows how parents have the ability to increase their children's language and literacy skills. The following are some tips on how to do this:

- Make it easy for your child to start conversations (e.g., have an interesting item close by, pull it out and wait for your child to ask what the item is, what it's for, if they can hold or touch it)
- Respond with interest to what your child is telling you (e.g., you love racing cars, I love racing cars too, they move so quickly)
- Talk frequently with your child about things that interest them (e.g., dinosaurs, dolls, video games, etc)
- Have conversations with your child that go back and forth many times (e.g., Child: birdy, Adult: I see the birds too, I wonder where they are going? C: maybe home A: maybe they're going home for supper. What do you think those birds would eat for supper? C: worms and pizza?)
- Talk at a level that your child can understand and learn from, not baby talk and not too adult-like
- Expose your child to print in a variety of ways (e.g., books, signs, flyers, posters, letters, labels, etc)

The following strategies were adapted from the Hanen website

<http://www.hanen.org/Helpful-Info/Parent-Tips.aspx>

For more detailed information or additional ideas please visit the link.