

LANGUAGE BUILDING ACTIVITIES

MR. POTATO HEAD

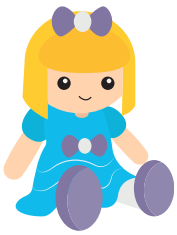
Put Mr. Potato Head in a box. Introduce the activity by saying "Let's Build Mr. Potato Head!". Hand your child the potato without all of the body parts and say "Uh oh, what's missing? or What do you need?". Wait 3-5 seconds to respond. If your child does not respond, give a gestural cue by pointing to your nose. If still waiting for a response, provide a phonemic cue (the first sound of the word) for example, "n_". Wait a few more seconds, then provide a model such as "Nose, want ___". Repeat this process of each body part. During this activity you can also use the strategy of providing choices. For example, "Do you want the red nose or pink nose?" or "Do you want eyes or a nose?"

After, Mr. Potato Head is built have Mr. Potato Head participate in activities such as a tea party or go shopping for new eyes, nose, arms etc.

Clean Up

Clean up time is another great opportunity to practice saying words like:
nose off, eyes off, take off, go in

If your child has difficulty taking the pieces off, have your child request help.

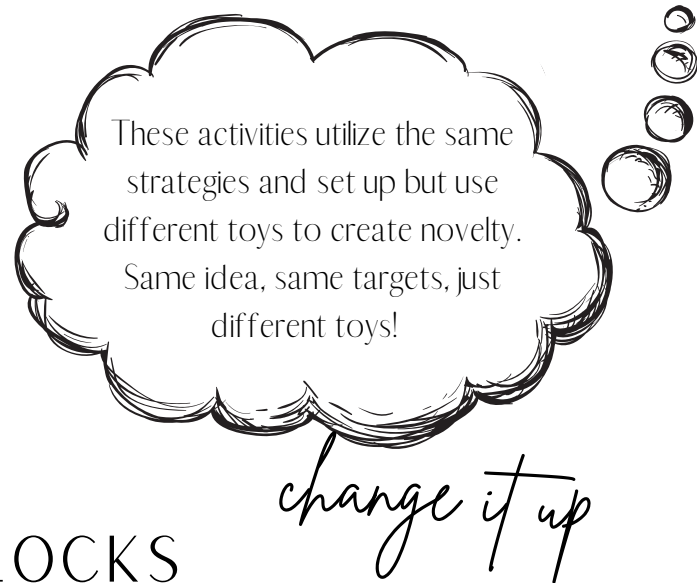


BARBIE DOLLS

Barbie dolls or other dolls is a very similar activity to Mr. Potato Head and could be set up in the same way.

Place dolls in a box that is not easily opened encouraging your child to ask for help or for specific items such as shoes, dress, hat, etc.

Take out one piece at a time encouraging your child to ask for more. Provide choices, "Do you want the pink dress or the purple dress?" If your child points to the choice, provide a model "You want the pink dress, Want ___". Give your child a few seconds to respond before finishing the sentence, "Want pink".



BUILDING BLOCKS

Building blocks or Lego blocks is another way to do the same activity and utilize the same strategies and targets but using a different toy.

Place the blocks in a box/bucket or out of reach to make it easier for you to encourage requesting. Provide choices that involve color or size: "Do you want the big block or little block?". Provide wait time then model the response. Comment on what your child is building. For example, "Wow! That's a tall tower" or "Wow! That looks like a train". Blocks are fun to knock over and repeat the whole process again!



Dear Sister Therapy

PEDIATRIC SPEECH AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY