

JOIN in & PLAY

By joining in and playing together, you create many opportunities for your child to learn more language and to practice talking with you.

Instead of...

- Insisting that your child play with a toy of your choice ...
- Watching your child play from the sidelines ...
- Telling your child what to do with the toys ...



- Feeling reserved and self-conscious when playing with your child ...

Try to...

- Watch to see what toys your child finds interesting, and then play along.
- Get your own toy and copy what your child is doing with that toy (if appropriate).
- Get your own toy and show them how to play. Pretend play is important for language development, so model simple pretend actions (e.g., feeding, combing hair, sleeping, dressing, washing, etc.) for your child.
- **Forget about how you look and be playful** – you are the best toy your child has! You may get your child's attention by using an excited voice, fun words (e.g., "oops", "weee!", "crash") and lots of gestures/facial expressions.

How to connect with support:

Anyone with a concern about their child's development can contact SmartStart Hub at Lansdowne Children's Centre to start the referral process and seek support.

No diagnosis or doctor referral is required. There is NO COST to the family for accessing SmartStart Hub services, supports and resources.

Visit www.lansdownecentre.ca/speech

Call toll free 1-800-454-7186 ext. 507

