

Ideas for working on Communication at home:

These games/activities are simple but can help improve listening, speaking and communication skills.

1. **Shopping game:** take it turns to go round the family saying 'I went to the shops and I bought a...' Each person needs to remember the items that came before and add one of their own. You can play this in alphabetical order. Or you can play it in different ways e.g. 'I went on holiday and I took...'
2. **Kim's game:** Put up to 10 items on a tray, ask your child to look at them, then cover them up with a tea towel. See how many your child can remember and then uncover to see how many they got right.
3. **Lego:** build a model in a pair, taking turns to be the 'instructor' and the 'builder'. The instructor looks at the instructions and gives instructions for the builder to follow. You can do this with other activities such as craft/origami/cookery.
4. **Blindfold game:** Set up an obstacle course, then take turns to wear a blindfold and follow instructions from your partner.
5. **20 questions:** Write some names of jobs/household items/animals etc onto post-its. Each person takes one and puts it on their forehead without looking. Then ask each other y/n questions e.g. 'is mine an animal?' to find out what you are. To make it easier, give each other clues instead.
6. **Would you rather?** There are lists of these online e.g. www.thebestideasforkids.com/would-you-rather-questions-for-kids Use them to encourage interesting conversations!
7. **Guess Who?** Good for asking questions and inferring information
8. **Go Fish** – good for asking questions and listening skills. Start with 5 cards each and a draw pile. Take turns to ask for particular cards e.g. 'Have you got any 5s?' If the other person has the card, they must give it to you. If not, you take a card from the pile. Collect 4 of each number card until all the cards are finished
9. **Memory games:** e.g. Pairs. Practise memory strategies such as repeating back the name of the card they just turned over.
10. **Barrier games:** Get 2 sets of identical items and a barrier to set up between you. Have 1 set of items each and take it in turns to place them in different positions in front of you, without your child seeing. Then explain to your child (behind the barrier) where to put everything so it is identical to your set-up. Remove the barrier to see how many your child got right. Then swap roles.
11. **Reading for meaning:** when reading a story/book together, make sure your child has a good understanding of what you are reading by asking appropriate questions: 'who, where, when, what happened, what will happen next? why did it happen? How do you know that?' etc
12. **Understanding time:** use clocks and calendars to improve understanding of time e.g. write up events on calendars together, make a timetable together of your daily activities.
13. **I spy**
14. **Name 5 things:** Have a list of categories e.g. zoo animals, jobs, foods and then take it turns to pick a category to name 5 things from. Give yourself a time limit e.g. 10 seconds.