

Speaking with your child in your home language(s) and sharing your culture and experiences with them helps strengthen their learning of English. Use these fun games and activities in any language to support their overall language development.



Card Talk

1. Make a set of cards using the prompts below.
2. Place the cards face down in a pile.
3. The first player should pick a card from the pile, read the prompt, and choose another player to answer it.
4. Keep the game going until all of the cards have been used.

Prompts:

- Describe what _____ does at _____.
- Suggest two places to visit this year.
- Where does _____ practice _____?
- How often does _____ go _____?
- What is _____ doing next?

Next time, make a new set of cards with different prompts!



Listening Lab

Read or tell a story. Need story ideas? Pick one of these:

- an important person in your/your child's life
- an interesting person you've heard about
- a memory from your childhood
- a surprising or funny incident
- a time someone helped you

Then ask questions from the list below:

- Why did _____?
- When did _____ happen?
- What happened when/while _____?
- Describe what you like about _____.
- Tell me about _____.

Encourage your child to answer in complete sentences.

Example:

Why did she become a scientist? She became a scientist because she loved solving puzzles.



Tournament Time

Host an activities tournament! Each player should brainstorm a list of activities that the family could do together. Create a tournament bracket—like the ones used for basketball tournaments—with activities in place of team names.

Two contenders should be picked to match up against each other. Players should take turns asking

each other: ***Would you like to _____ or _____?***

Players should explain why they think the family should do their activity.

When all activities have been considered, have family members vote for the winning activity and then do it together!

Example:

Would you like to go to the library or listen to music? I would rather go to the library because there is a new book I want to read.



Beat the Clock

1. Take turns describing these categories:

trees

cities

animals

sports

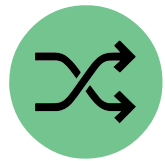
families

vegetables

2. Have one player describe the first category in 30 seconds.
3. Switch and have another player describe the next category in 30 seconds.
4. Players should use complete sentences to describe each category.

Example:

Trees always have roots and branches. Trees sometimes have flowers and fruit.



Super Sort

1. Place 5-10 objects on a table.
2. Each player should select two objects and compare them in a complete sentence using the following words:

smaller

bigger

lighter

heavier

3. Then, players should exchange objects with another player and continue the game until everyone has had a turn.
4. Once everyone has had a turn to compare, work together to sort the objects by size or weight.

Examples:

_____ is smaller than _____.
_____ is heavier than _____.



Fun with Sounds

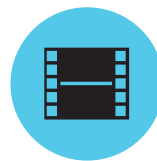
In English, we often add **-ing** to the end of an action word to turn it into the name of an activity. For example, the action word **run** becomes running.

1. The first player picks an action word to say to another player.
2. That player turns the action word into an activity by adding -ing to the end of the word.
3. Both players act out the activity together.

Have players take turns choosing an action word and adding -ing.

Example:

swim + ing = swimming



Act It Out

1. Choose an event from the list:
 - a birthday party
 - a family meal
 - the first day of school
 - the last day of school
 - visiting friends
 - a field trip
2. Have one player act it out.
3. The other players should take turns guessing the event using complete sentences.

Examples:

*Are you opening a gift?
When did you eat this meal?
Could you show me where you went on the trip?
Did this happen inside or outside?*