

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.



Art Studio

1. Get paper and coloring tools.
2. Take turns drawing scenes from your child's favorite book, movie, or TV show.
3. After each turn, ask each other about the scenes. Use the following questions to guide your conversation:
 - What is happening in this scene?
 - Describe the _____.
 - Tell me about his/her _____.
 - What happened when _____?
 - Why didn't this character _____?
 - What was surprising about _____?

Example:

Why didn't this character go to the store? They were going to go to the store, but they went to the park instead.



Act It Out

1. Choose a fictional scenario from this list:
 - meeting a space alien
 - life as a mermaid
 - discovering you have a superpower
 - winning the World Cup
 - life as your favorite book character
 - riding a dragon
2. Have one player act it out.
3. The other players should take turns guessing the fictional scenario using complete sentences.

Examples:

Tell me about the spaceship.

Explain the importance of the laser beam.

How long have you been exploring the galaxy?

Did the alien go to the village?



Listening Lab

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

- an important event in your life
- a time something unexpected happened
- a challenge you faced
- a big decision you had to make
- the most interesting person you know
- a trip you took somewhere interesting

Then ask questions from the list below:

- Describe _____.
- Explain the importance of _____.
- Why did/didn't you _____?
- What was surprising to me about _____?
- What did you do next?

Encourage your child to answer in complete sentences.

Example:

What was surprising to me about college? Even though it was a lot of work, it was very fun.

SPEAK@HOME

SPEAKING AND LISTENING ACTIVITIES | #9



Speak Up

Plan a meal with your child. Work together to select a recipe and make a shopping list of ingredients you will need. Then, make the meal together and eat it with your family. Use the questions below to guide your conversation:

- Tell me about your favorite food.
- How many _____ are _____?
- How much salt do we need?
- What can we use to add more flavor?

Encourage your child to answer in complete sentences.

Example:

How much flour do we need? We need two cups of flour.



21 Questions

Pick a player to start. That player silently chooses an object. The other players take turns asking questions to gain one clue at a time about the mystery object. Players can ask up to a total of 21 questions before they have to guess.

Here are some questions you can use to gather clues:

- How heavy is the object?
- Is the object hard or soft?
- What will happen to the object if _____?
- What is different about the object compared to _____?
- What color is the object?

Example:

What is different about the object compared to a tree? While a tree has leaves, this object does not.



Photo Booth

Take photos of family members completing daily activities, such as cooking or getting ready for school. Then, use the pictures to talk about what each family member is doing. Use the following questions to guide your conversation:

- What is happening here?
- What else can you tell me about _____?
- What do you think _____ is doing?
- Explain why you think _____ is/are _____?
- Why was/were _____?

Encourage your child to answer in complete sentences.

Example:

What do you think your sister is doing? My sister is wearing her pajamas, so she might be going to bed.



Get Moving

Explore a local garden or park with your child. Talk about what you see in the landscape. Use the following questions below to guide your conversation:

- Describe the plants.
- What has caused the soil to erode in this area?
- What happened when we cleared away the weeds?
- Explain why you think the bird built its nest there.
- What is surprising about the stream?
- How many squirrels are in the trees?

Encourage them to answer in complete sentences.

Example:

What will happen to the path if it rains? If it rains, the path will get muddy.