



Chat Challenge with ... Objects

Each week we will share a new activity for you. These are fun activities, using things already in your home, which will support speech, language and communication.

You can see demonstrations of them on our YouTube account:
<https://youtu.be/z6H2RDSXmHs>

To do this activity you will need:

- Any number of children for any age range. It will develop communication in any child.
- A range of household objects depending on the activity. Start with a bag and around 10 objects.

This chat challenge has been designed to focus on:

- increasing vocabulary
- remembering instructions
- turn taking
- problem solving
- describing

Try to using the suggestions lots of times in the activity as repetition really helps.

For younger children:

- Watch: see which items they are interested in
- Comment: talk about them with short phrases.

For older children

- Encourage them to share their ideas about different ways to use and play with the items

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For Pre-School Children:

For our youngest children, think about early words and find those common objects.

1. Put them in a bag, take them out one by one to name them. Use starter sentences like “Look, I’ve got a” then pause and wait for them to finish the sentence.
2. Make a bowling game: use old drinks bottles, fill them up with a little water to weight them down. Put an object behind each one and tell them which one to knock down by describing it or saying what you’d do with it. If that's too hard, just name it.
3. Sort out the washing with them. Use language to name the clothes, pair socks, describe the patterns and colours, think about who it belongs to.

For children in their first years at school:

This activity can help their concept vocabulary (words that we use to describe things).

1. Collect some objects in a bag and take turns (without looking) to put your hand in the bag, feel one and describe it. See if the other person can guess what it is - take it out to check.
2. Make a memory game. Choose six objects and talk about them. Hide them under a towel, secretly take one away. Remove the towel and see if they can work out which one is missing.
3. Do jobs with them, giving them two-part instructions like: “get the cloth and wipe the table”.

Look on the next page for activities for older children in primary and secondary school.

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For older children in primary school:

When using everyday objects with older children we can use lots of new words:

1. Use your bag full of objects and take turns (without looking) to put your hand in the bag, feel one and describe it.
 - Use language about how it feels, what shape it is, where you'd normally find it, what you'd use it for.
 - Encourage your child to take a turn at describing. Can they give you only 3 clues - what would the most helpful ones be?
2. Use everyday routines like getting dinner ready, or unpacking the shopping. See how many words can think of to describe an object, take turns and try not to repeat each other.
 - e.g. crisps: crunchy, salty, thin, greasy, yummy

For secondary school children:

You can use a game like "Guess Who" or "Taboo" if you already have it to work on describing and problem solving. If not...

1. Decide on a category (like "food"), then pick a letter of the alphabet. In 5 minutes, who can think of the most answers? Either write them down each, or take turns to shout out answers.
2. Play word association. The first person says a word, the next one has to think of a related word. Keep going until someone repeats a word or gets stuck
 - e.g. banana - yellow - sun - shiny - shoes...

There are lots of other ideas on our social media pages (see bottom banner), and another activity coming soon!

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