

Achieving Joint Attention

There are many different games that you can play together which will help your child to join in and share attention with you. All of these games can be played again and again - children love repetition!



Balloons

- Blow up a balloon and let it go - play "ready, steady.....go!"
- Let your child feel the air coming out of the balloon
- Throw and catch balloons together
- Draw faces on the balloons
- Pop them!



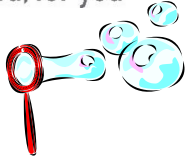
Building blocks

- Encourage your child to build towers or walls and knock them down- play "ready, steady.....go!"
- Line the bricks up and push them along like a train
- Bang them together



Stacking cups

- Build towers - play "ready, steady.....go!"
- Hide things under them
- Roll them to each other
- Play with stacking cups in the bath- fill and empty them with water and float them
- Play with stacking cups in the sand, use them to build sand castles



Bubbles

- Use a hand-held bubble bottle (not a bubble machine!)
- Play "ready, steady..... go!" before you blow them
- pop bubbles and say "pop!"
- watch the bubbles rise and fall



Balls, cars and trains

- Roll these around the room or to each other



Shape sorters, posting boxes and puzzles

- Sit with your child while he takes the pieces out and puts them back in again
- Let your child show you what he finds interesting - by looking, pointing or saying
- You can help him and talk about what he's doing and looking at e.g. "it doesn't fit!" "daddy help" "yes, there's the elephant!"



Songs and rhymes

- Singing rhymes and songs together will help to improve your child's concentration
- Songs with actions are especially good because they encourage looking and listening
- Songs where the child has to **wait** for an action or word are good because this holds their attention:

Humpty dumpty
Wheels on the bus
Row the boat

This little piggy went to market
Round and round the garden
Insey wincey spider

Use your favourite songs and rhymes and make them up too!



Books

- Look at simple board books and "lift the flap" books together
- Encourage your child to turn the pages - don't rush, let them take their time!
- Your child might want to look at the same page again and again - that's fine, they are more likely to concentrate if they're doing what they want to do!
- Let your child show you what they find interesting - by looking, pointing or saying
- Don't worry about reading the words now - your child will have more fun looking at the pictures, and you can tell them the names of things.