

Using Beanbags to Support Speech and Language Development

Interaction Skills

Making choices – hold out two different coloured beanbags so that the child can make a choice.

Taking turns – take turns to throw the beanbag into a hoop or a bucket.

Questioning – encourage the child to ask for more.

Eye contact – encourage the child to look at you and give eye contact before you give them the beanbag.

Develop shared attention – look at the beanbag as it is being thrown and encourage the child to do the same.

Listening skills – encourage the child to wait until their name has been called before throwing the beanbag into a hoop or a bucket.

Expressive Language Skills

One word phrases – 'go', 'throw', 'stop', 'more', 'in', 'hoop' and 'again'.

Simple phrases – use the phrase 'ready, steady...go!'

Colours – use different colours to describe the beanbags, e.g. 'the blue beanbag', 'the red bucket'.

Size – use words that compare different sizes, e.g. 'big beanbag', 'small hoop'.

Verbs – use and demonstrate words such as 'throw' and 'catch'.

Prepositions

See if the child can follow instructions that involve the prepositions 'on', 'in' and 'under', e.g. 'put the beanbag under the bucket'.

Speech

Encourage articulation of the initial /b/ sound.

When throwing the beanbag into the bucket make the target sound.

Place picture cards under the bean bags of items that use the initial /b/sound, e.g. bat, ball, banana. The child has to pick up a beanbag and say the word before throwing the beanbag into a bucket.

