TALKING SKILLS (“Expressive Language”): Activity Week 1

**Sing and Play: “This is the Way We….”**

First: Collect 5-10 smallish objects from different places in your home: a spoon, a washcloth, a toy car, a building block, a cup, a sock, a pen or pencil, a glove, a child’s scissors, a spatula or ladle, a small mirror, etc. Next: Put them all in a paper or plastic grocery bag. Then: Sit face to face with your child (or children) on the floor and tell them, “I have lots of things in my bag. Let’s see what’s in my bag”.

Playing the game: Have your child pull one object at a time out of the bag. If there is more than one child, give each a turn. When the object is pulled out, each child will name the object, tell and demonstrate what the object is used for and then all together, sing, “This is the way we…….early in the morning!”

GOALS ADDRESSED:

* Vocabulary: names of common house objects; names of common actions
* Imitating words (if able)
* Demonstrating (pantomiming) and copying actions
* Taking turns; joining in singing
* Describing functions naming action words (verbs)
* Describing functions using sentences

**ADAPTING THE GAME DEPENDING ON YOUR CHILD’S LANGUAGE LEVEL:**

1. **FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT YET TALKING**: Have your child pull out an object. You say, “What is it?” or “Look what you have!” and then you NAME the object. Encourage but **do not demand** imitating the word – accept any vocalization or word approximation. Demonstrate how to use the object and encourage your child to imitate. As you do, sing the song, doing the action as you sing. An example: For a washcloth, you would pretend to wash your face with it and sing, “This is the way we wash our face, wash our face, wash our face; this is the way we wash our face, early in the morning!” This is perfect way to have a word repeated may times – repetition is good for word learning.
2. **FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE USING SOME WORDS**: Have your child pull out an object. You ask, “What is it?” and have your child **name** the object. If your child doesn’t know the name, you can name it and encourage your child to repeat the word. Tell your child to “show me what you do with it”, offer praise, say the word that names the action and then sing, all also pantomiming the action.
3. **FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE COMBINING WORDS AND USING SIMPLE PHRASES**: Have your child pull out an object. You ask, “What is it?” and have your child **name** the object. Then ask your child, “What do we use the [object] for? Show me and tell me.” If your child says just the action word (e.g., for ‘spoon’ – eat), expand by saying, “Yes – we EAT with a spoon”. Then all pantomime and sing.
4. **FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE USING SENTENCES**: Have your child pull out an object, name it, tell the object’s use (What do we do with the X? What is X for?) and then demonstrate. Expand on your child’s description offering more details about the object (for example: for SPOON - Yes, we eat with a spoon; we scoop up food with a spoon; it has a handle to hold and a small oval bowl for the food). All pantomime and sing. After the game is done, put the objects back into the bag and see if you all can remember the objects you sang about.