

Parent Friendly Ideas for Communicating in the Home Learning Environment

Tents and Dens

When the weather is fine, place an old sheet over the washing line to provide a tent. Make a den inside the house by covering the dining table with an overhanging cloth.

Decorate the tent and den with soft cushions and cuddly toys.

Use torches or battery powered fairy lights to add light and to make shadows.

You can use these areas for looking at books and sharing stories together.



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Bathtime

Spend time talking to your child about names of body parts and the items used in the bath such as soap, water and toys.

Use words repetitively such as bubbles, warm, wet, slippy and splash.

In summer, use the warm weather to provide bathing opportunities outside using a large washing up bowl or a paddling pool with warm soapy water.



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Sharing books and songs

Tents and dens can provide the ideal environment to listen to stories. It will be quiet with no distractions such as the television. It needs to be comfortable and inviting and very attractive to young children. Tents and dens can inspire creative and imaginative stories from children and adults alike.

Research has indicated that families who regularly share books and singing with their children boost language skills (Payne, Whitehurst, Angell 1994)

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<https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/0778-What-to-Expect-When-2018.pdf>



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Describing Words

Real situations and real objects help a child to learn describing words such as warm and wet, especially if those words are repeated often during the routine activity. Positional words can also be introduced such as in, on, under and up or down.

PORIC, by Woods, G and Acors, D. (1999)

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