

What's Under The Cloth?

You will need

A box of everyday objects (e.g. cup, plate, bunch of keys, shoe etc.), and a thin cloth big enough to cover the objects.

How to play

Get the children to sit on chairs or on the floor in a circle.

Take the objects out of the box, naming them as you do so and spreading them out on the floor making sure you can cover all the objects with a cloth.

The children take it in turns to find an object and pull it out from under the cloth.

The child is then encouraged to show the other children their object and name what they have found. If the child has difficulty naming the object you can give them a choice, e.g. "Is it a cup or a key?"

You can then get the child to talk a little bit about their object to extend the child's language, e.g. what you use the object for and where you might find one at home or at nursery.

To encourage and develop

Talking, taking turns and attention and listening.



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General strategies for children with language needs

Repeat words that your child says and add on an extra word to expand their talking, e.g. child: "Juice" adult: "More juice."

Offer choices to your child to encourage their talking, e.g. "Is it a brick or is it a cup?"

To develop this activity try

Work on attention and listening skills further by gradually using more subtle ways of indicating which child's turn it is: first point at each child in random order to indicate their turn during one round of turns, then move on to just eye pointing or nodding to indicate their turn.

Each child can then play the role of 'leader' and they can indicate whose turn it is. Encourage them to use some of the subtle way of indicating whose turn is next, e.g. by pointing or nodding. Encourage the child to indicate to the group which method they are going to use for the round of turns. Continue until every child has had a turn.