



### Attention Grabbing Activities

Activity	Resources <sup>1</sup>	Instructions <sup>2</sup>	Language
Cornflour Drip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cornflour</li> <li>○ Water</li> <li>○ Food colouring</li> <li>○ Pizza tray (with holes)</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mix cornflour &amp; water, drip a couple of times</li> <li>2. Add colour &amp; mix, drip a couple of times</li> <li>3. Pour onto tray &amp; drip onto shower curtain</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mix(ing)</li> <li>✓ Drip</li> <li>✓ Colour name</li> </ul>
Lemonade Fountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Large bottle of lemonade (preferably chilled)</li> <li>○ Food colouring</li> <li>○ Glitter</li> <li>○ Salt</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Open bottle &amp; build anticipation</li> <li>2. Add colour &amp; glitter; watch them blend in</li> <li>3. Then add salt &amp; watch the fountain!</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Open</li> <li>✓ Colour name</li> <li>✓ Glitter</li> <li>✓ Pouring</li> <li>✓ Ready steady go (salt)</li> </ul>
Flour Shake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Flour (?with glitter or powder paint)</li> <li>○ Sieve</li> <li>○ Black paper</li> <li>○ Plastic shapes (optional)</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Place shapes onto black paper, naming them</li> <li>2. Pour flour into sieve &amp; shake over shapes</li> <li>3. Remove shapes and see pattern on paper</li> <li>4. Shake flour over to cover paper</li> <li>5. Draw shapes in flour with fingers</li> <li>6. Can just have flour onto paper, without shapes</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Shape names</li> <li>✓ Flour</li> <li>✓ Shake</li> </ul>
Sand shapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coloured sand</li> <li>○ Funnel</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pour sand into funnel</li> <li>2. Make shapes/pattern on curtain</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Sand</li> <li>✓ Pour</li> <li>✓ Shape names</li> </ul>
Sparkly Tower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Boxes (?different sizes) covered in colourful paper with sparkly numbers on side (and/or numicon shapes)</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stack boxes</li> <li>2. Knock down tower</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Numbers</li> <li>✓ Ready steady (go)</li> <li>✓ Fall down</li> </ul>
Tissue waterfall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cardboard cone (hole in bottom)</li> <li>○ Hose or pipe</li> <li>○ Tissue paper or foil shapes</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pour shapes into cone</li> <li>2. Blow through pipe into bottom of cone and watch them float!</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Shapes</li> <li>✓ 1,2,3 or ready steady</li> <li>✓ Blow</li> </ul>

Rice Tube	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coloured rice/beans</li> <li>○ Clear tube (can make from empty laminate sleeve)</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pour rice/beans into tube in alternating colour layers if more than 1 colour</li> <li>2. Ready steady go ☑ pull up tube</li> <li>3. Draw shapes in rice/beans on shower curtain</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Rice/beans</li> <li>✓ Pour(ing)</li> <li>✓ 1,2,3 or ready steady go</li> </ul>
Balloon Drop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Weighted balloons (e.g. with rice inside), possibly numbered</li> <li>○ Large clear tube to fit balloons</li> <li>○ Chair</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stand on chair and drop balloons through tube in number order</li> <li>2. (Can just drop to floor if no tube – helps if balloons made a bit heavier)</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Balloon</li> <li>✓ 1,2,3 or ready steady drop</li> </ul>
Balloon Pop (Be aware of children with noise sensitivities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Balloons with surprises inside, e.g. rice, tissue paper, foil, flour, etc.</li> <li>○ String or washing line attached at appropriate height</li> <li>○ Pegs to attach balloons to string</li> <li>○ Pin or something sharp for popping</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hang balloons onto string – could be numbered for order if relevant to children</li> <li>2. Pop them one at a time and see what comes out! (need shower curtain underneath!)</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 1,2,3 or ready steady pop</li> </ul>
Magic Milk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Full fat milk</li> <li>○ Tray</li> <li>○ Food colouring</li> <li>○ Fairy liquid</li> <li>○ Cotton buds</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pour milk into tray</li> <li>2. Add splodges of food colouring</li> <li>3. Dip cotton bud into fairy liquid &amp; then onto food colouring in milk &amp; it will magically disperse!</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Milk</li> <li>✓ Colours</li> <li>✓ 1,2,3 or ready steady etc.</li> </ul>
Tornado Tube	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2 large empty bottles</li> <li>○ Connector to join bottles</li> <li>○ Water</li> <li>○ Food colouring</li> <li>○ Glitter</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pour water into one bottle – slowly to build anticipation</li> <li>2. Add food colouring and glitter – again slowly</li> <li>3. Screw on connector &amp; other bottle</li> <li>4. Shake/spin to create tornado!</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Pour</li> <li>✓ Sprinkle (glitter)</li> <li>✓ Turn (when screwing on bottle)</li> <li>✓ Tornado tube</li> <li>✓ Ready steady Shake/spin</li> </ul>

Magic Tube	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Plastic tube bags (polybags.co.uk and search 'layflat tubing')</li> <li>○ Scissors</li> <li>○ Water</li> <li>○ Food colouring &amp; glitter</li> <li>○ Or could use e.g. custard, rice pudding, cooked spaghetti, etc...</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pull tubing from roll (building anticipation!) until you get to desired length, then cut</li> <li>2. Tie knot in the end</li> <li>3. Add water, food colouring &amp; glitter</li> <li>4. Tie knot in the other end</li> <li>5. Squeeze bag, move around etc.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Pull...Stop!</li> <li>✓ Squeeze</li> </ul>
Rainbow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Water in clear jugs or bottles</li> <li>○ Food colouring (?glitter also)</li> <li>○ Watering cans</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Add food colouring (?+ glitter) to water</li> <li>2. Pour into watering cans</li> <li>3. Pour onto shower curtain in rainbow shape</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Colours</li> <li>✓ Pouring</li> <li>✓ Rainbow</li> </ul>
Dancing Raisins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Large bottle of lemonade, chilled</li> <li>○ Raisins</li> <li>○ Food colouring (optional)</li> <li>○ Salt (optional)</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Add food colouring to lemonade if required.</li> <li>2. Add raisins &amp; watch them dance!</li> <li>3. Could then also add salt &amp; watch fountain!</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Up/down</li> </ul>
Lava Lamp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clear jug or large glass</li> <li>○ Chilled lemonade</li> <li>○ Sunflower oil</li> <li>○ Salt</li> <li>○ Pipettes or straws</li> <li>○ Various food colouring</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fill jug ¾ full with oil</li> <li>2. Add lemonade</li> <li>3. Use pipette or straw to add a few drops of food colouring and watch the blob drop down</li> <li>4. Slowly add salt – when it reaches the lemonade at the bottom it will fizz up and mix with oil &amp; food colouring – maybe it will even explode!</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Pour/glug</li> <li>✓ Drip</li> </ul>
Patty Cake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clear bowl</li> <li>○ Flour</li> <li>○ Spoon</li> <li>○ Lentils</li> <li>○ ? Water</li> <li>○ ? Food colouring</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pour flour into mixing bowl</li> <li>2. Add lentils</li> <li>3. Add food colouring to water and pour into bowl</li> <li>4. Stir the mixture well</li> </ol> <p>Roll into balls and pass to children to play with</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mixing, stirring</li> </ul>

Fireworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Black paper</li> <li>○ Clear cup</li> <li>○ Bottle of cold water (?+food colouring)</li> <li>○ Old photo film containers</li> <li>○ Vitamin C tablets (effervescent)</li> <li>○ Glitter</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pour some water into film canister</li> <li>2. Add vitamin C tablet</li> <li>3. Put lid on canister and place onto paper</li> <li>4. Sprinkle glitter on top of lid</li> <li>5. Wait for the lid to pop off!</li> </ol> <p>(Could make it safer by letting it pop inside a clear box, which could have water in bottom)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Pour, sprinkle</li> <li>✓ Snap (lid)</li> <li>✓ Ready steady...Pop!</li> </ul>
Fish in the Sea  Can be adapted to e.g. pigs in mud, snakes in grass, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Water (in clear jug or bottle)</li> <li>○ Blue food colouring</li> <li>○ Watering can</li> <li>○ Tissue paper or foil fish shapes</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Add food colouring to water</li> <li>2. Pour water into watering can</li> <li>3. Pour water onto shower curtain – stand on chair to get more height which creates better sound!</li> <li>4. Sprinkle fish onto water</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Pour</li> <li>✓ Fish</li> <li>✓ Sprinkle</li> <li>✓ 1,2,3 or ready steady</li> </ul>
Tapioca Tumble/Seed Sprinkle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Black tray with low sides</li> <li>○ Plastic shot glasses</li> <li>○ Tapioca/dried pasta/rice/lentils/beans</li> <li>○ Long clear tube (could be made from empty laminating pouch)</li> <li>○ Drum/tambourine/bowl of water</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Place drum/tambourine/bowl of water on floor and shot glasses to side</li> <li>2. Pour tapioca (etc.) into shot glasses</li> <li>3. Hold clear tube and block off one end with hand</li> <li>4. Pour tapioca into tube glass by glass</li> <li>5. When full, gradually release hand and let tapioca fall onto drum/tambourine/water</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Pour, shake</li> <li>✓ (Counting)</li> <li>✓ Ready steady go</li> </ul>
Bottle Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clear sports bottles, with bottoms attached to string</li> <li>○ Water</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pour water into sports bottles</li> <li>2. Add food colouring, different colour per bottle</li> <li>3. Place lids on bottles, leave spouts open</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Pouring</li> <li>✓ Colours</li> <li>✓ Numbers (count bottles)</li> <li>✓ Ready steady shake/jiggle</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Food colouring (colour per sport bottle)</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Lift up by the string and jiggle over shower curtain, making pattern with colours</li> </ol>	

Rainbow Rain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2 black trays</li> <li>○ Fork</li> <li>○ Corn flour</li> <li>○ Water</li> <li>○ Food colouring</li> <li>○ Glitter</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mix cornflour &amp; water and pour into one tray</li> <li>2. Pour drops of food colouring onto mixture – use different colours</li> <li>3. Roughly mix the colour into the flour but not fully</li> <li>4. Put other tray upside down on top of first tray</li> <li>5. Turn over trays, then slowly pull off top one and watch the coloured rain drip down.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mix</li> <li>✓ Drip</li> <li>✓ Rain</li> <li>✓ Colours</li> </ul>
Colour Spin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Black paper (A3 size or so)</li> <li>○ Lazy Susan (rotating tray) – clear</li> <li>○ 3 small clear bottles of paint</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Put black paper onto shower curtain and Lazy Susan on top</li> <li>2. Spin the Lazy Susan as quickly as you can</li> <li>3. Squirt paint, starting from middle of LS and moving out to edge. Repeat with different colours</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Pouring</li> <li>✓ Spinning</li> <li>✓ Colours</li> </ul>
Flour Castles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Black paper (or tray with low edges)</li> <li>○ Flour</li> <li>○ Glitter</li> <li>○ Containers of various shapes and sizes</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lay black paper on floor/shower curtain</li> <li>2. Sprinkle some glitter into a container, then fill it with flour – squash it down fairly firmly</li> <li>3. Place container upside down onto paper</li> <li>4. Lift container away and see the flour castle!</li> <li>5. Make a few, then knock them down!</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Sprinkle</li> <li>✓ Pour</li> <li>✓ Squash/pat</li> <li>✓ Sizes/shapes of castles</li> <li>✓ 1,2,3 or Ready steady squash</li> <li>✓ All gone</li> </ul>
Rice Fireworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coloured rice</li> <li>○ Black paper or tray</li> <li>○ Food colouring</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Drop the rice onto the paper or tray from a height enough for it to bounce as it lands</li> <li>3. Drop drenched cotton balls onto shower curtain</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 1,2,3 or ready steady go</li> </ul>
	(Could use paint instead of water & fc)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 1,2,3 or ready steady drop</li> </ul>

Slow Drop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clear tube (could be made from an empty laminating pouch)</li> <li>○ Shaving foam</li> <li>○ Coloured straw/beans/ small objects</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Place tube down and hold so end is closed off</li> <li>2. Squirt some shaving foam into tube</li> <li>3. Drop items in and watch them fall slowly</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Squirt</li> <li>✓ 1,2,3 or ready steady drop</li> </ul>
Shiny Sprinkle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Metallic paper slices or confetti</li> <li>○ Clear tube/bottle (with water optional)</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pour metallic pieces down tube or into water</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Colours</li> <li>✓ Pouring</li> </ul>
Umbrella Spin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Water</li> <li>○ Food colouring</li> <li>○ Watering can</li> <li>○ Clear umbrella</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pour food colouring into water</li> <li>2. Pour coloured water into watering can</li> <li>3. Open umbrella upside down and spin over the shower curtain</li> <li>4. Then pour coloured water into it</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Colours</li> <li>✓ Pouring</li> <li>✓ Spinning</li> <li>✓ Ready steady</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> **Use a shower curtain each time**, even if activity is not messy as this provides clear structure as well as defining a space for you to work in.

<sup>2</sup> **Remember to build anticipation** with pauses and doing actions slowly! Introduce each resource with excitement, e.g. shake flour around in container, etc.



# Importance of developing Joint Attention

What is joint attention?

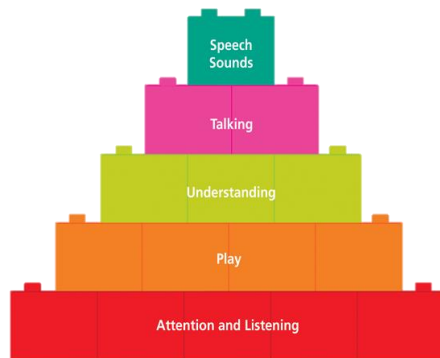
Joint attention means sharing an experience with someone else, for example both watching a firework, or popping bubbles that someone is blowing. Early joint attention skills may include a child reaching out to be picked up by an adult or looking at the same page of a book with another person. Further developed skills may include focusing on a game or requesting items, such as a favourite toy or food.

In order for children to want to share their attention with you, you need to be the most exciting and appealing activity available.

If our activity or game is not exciting, children will not share their attention on it, meaning they are not participating in the learning activity or building a relationship with us. When children are motivated and choose to share their attention on us, they will engage more and have a desire to learn and form relationships.

Why is joint attention important for communication?

Attention and listening skills are the foundation for all language development:



Without joint attention skills, it could be difficult for children to interact, develop relationships with their caregivers and peers, and develop their communication skills.

Tips and ideas to support your child to develop their joint attention?

- Get down on your child's level – This will mean they can see your face and will help them learn more about communicating. It will also help you to notice what they are looking at and interested in.
- Follow your child's lead in play – Play with the toys your child chooses. Try not to tell your child what to do in the game – see what they do first and join in.
- Add words – Talk about what your child is looking at or doing.
- Use simple language – If your child is not yet using any words, choose one word or even a sound to comment. For example: 'down', 'Ready steady go', 'WOW', or 'whee!'



# Joint Attention Activities for EYFS & Primary

What are joint attention activities?

Joint attention activities need to be visually based and highly motivating for your child. By making activities irresistible to your child, we are giving them a desire to participate as well as providing them with something that they will want to communicate about.

Aims of joint attention activities?

- Ultimate goal is to develop natural and spontaneous communication skills
- To develop shared enjoyment
- To increase attention in adult-led activities
- To increase non-verbal and verbal communication through adults modelling and providing a commentary
- Most importantly, to have fun!

Structure of a joint attention session?

Our joint attention sessions are based on the principles and structure of an approach called 'Attention Autism', which was developed by Gina Davies.

In the session we have 2 main activities: **'the bucket'** and **'the attention builder'**

The aim of the bucket is to teach your child to focus their attention on a shared activity.

The aim of the attention builder activity is to teach your child how to sustain their attention.

The bucket



- Fill a bucket with exciting objects
- Take one item out of the bucket at a time
- Use simple language to comment on the items (e.g. Wow, flashing!)
- Don't offer the object to the children to touch/have a turn with
- When you have finished with one object, put it back in, and take out another object







# Play and language development

## Importance of play

Talking and playing together is the best way to help your child's language development.

During play with others, children learn vocabulary by hearing words and making links between the word and the objects, actions and concepts they refer to. They also learn social interaction skills, including sharing, interacting and communicating with others.

## How to help our children develop language during play

- **Most importantly, follow your child's lead!** This means letting them choose what to play with and how to play- try not to tell them what to do. E.g. your child may choose to line up the cars- this is okay. When we tell our children how to play, it is no longer play for them, it is following instructions.
- **Comment on your child's actions and label what they are doing.** We do not expect children to immediately copy and use the language, however exposing children to language during highly motivating activities, means we are giving them examples of new language and how they can use this within an activity
- **Try to focus on functional words and core vocabulary.** Modelling core words in a range of different settings is more important for a child, than them learning the names of lots of different items. E.g. teach them concepts and words for 'more', 'finished', 'different', 'go', 'stop'.

## Top tips for how to promote language development in play

- Try not to ask too many questions- Questions reduce the amount of language children use. Instead model the language in a meaningful way, e.g. if children are building a tower, model the words 'brick', 'build', 'knock over'.
- Let your child start the talking – create opportunities for your child to initiate communication by pausing and engaging in motivating activities with them. It's OK to play in silence for a while.
- Repeat the words/ vocalisations your child uses.
- Make sure you label verbs as your child plays as well as nouns, E.g. "the dog is jumping"