

WHAT IS IN MY BAG?

AND HOW CAN WE USE IT TO HELP LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT?

This research highlighted that it would be beneficial for more sensory play and natural resources to be available within the home environments. It also showed that children would benefit from opportunities to use their imaginations and to play with others when possible. The resources provided therefore take these findings into account. We hope you and your child enjoy them.

Please beware small parts - adult supervision recommended

TINKER TRAY AND LOOSE PARTS



These trays contain all manner of loose parts made of natural resources. You could encourage your child to use these to create houses for their peg people (see below), or homes for animals/teddies/cars. You could add them to playdough or clay if your child is creative. You could do sorting exercises - put them into the tray in colours, or shapes, or by size or texture. You could count, add etc. The possibilities are endless.

TEEPEE PIECES

By using the three poles, the bungee and the material provided, you can make a teepee for your child to play in. This can be used indoors or outdoors. It could be a space where your child could go for some time to think and be on their own or they could let their imaginations run wild and create a space that represents whatever they like. Sometimes children need quiet time to process what they have learnt and this cements their language learning



WOODEN PEG PEOPLE



These gorgeous little peg people are gender and expression free on purpose. That way your child can use them for whatever purpose they feel is needed. They can be combined with the tinker tray resources (above) to foster imagination and whilst these peg people are involved you could encourage your child to talk about their activities. Try prompting them with questions such as "tell me what your people are doing" as this will give an open forum for them to talk.

TWEEZERS

By using these tweezers to move and manipulate the loose parts in the tinker trays this will help your child to develop strength in their finger muscles which in turn help with skills such as writing. Why not create challenges and an element of competition - who can move the most objects in a minute? Try to build the tallest tower using the tweezers and loose parts. Working together will encourage language development



Thank you very much for taking part in this research - we hope that you enjoyed being part of it and find these resources useful. Please feel free to get in touch should you have any comments or questions regarding this study.

Dr Tanya Richardson - email: tanya.richardson@northampton.ac.uk

Prof. Jane Murray - jane.murray@northampton.ac.uk