



Chat Challenge with ... Water

Each week we will share a new activity for you. These are fun activities, using things already in your home, which will support speech, language and communication.

You can see demonstrations of them at: <https://youtu.be/2QsDeBv9dWo>

To do this activity you will need:

- Water
- Some containers to hold the water (anything from a cup to a water balloon)

This chat challenge has been designed to focus on:

- vocabulary
- following / giving instructions
- categories
- telling a story
- reading comprehension
- negotiation skills

For younger children:

- Follow the child's lead; if they're excited about something, they tend to use more language!

For older children

- Encourage them to solve problems independently
- If they get stuck help by asking questions rather than giving them the answer.

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For Pre-School Children:

1. Modelling language through water play. Focus on just a couple of words, and use them as much as possible.
 - This could be naming the objects they're using (e.g. 'cup')
 - Action words like: pouring, splashing
 - Concept words like: empty, full
 - If they give you one word, send it back with an extra one. For example 'cup' becomes 'red cup'.
2. Washing toys. This is great to see if they can follow instructions.
 - Start off with a tub of toys e.g. farm animals, vehicles, and give them a simple instruction, for example: 'wash the cow' or 'wash the car'
 - If they get this right easily, make it a bit longer, for example: 'wash the cow's leg' or 'wash the big red car'

For children in their first years at school:

1. Category buckets. Use 2 buckets (or saucepans) to hold 2 different categories (types) of object, for example 'clothes' and 'food', think of words in those categories and label each bucket.
 - Say a word and get your child to put water in the right bucket (water balloon, squirty bottle etc or a homemade sponge water bomb <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmrp0BZzvSM>)
2. Water stories. Use a tub of water to create magical stories like a whale living in the sea, or pirates who found treasure! Encourage your child to make full stories by asking them questions like 'what happens next?' and 'where did they go?'.

Look on the next page for activities for older children in primary and secondary school.

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For older children in primary school:

Create your own water game using items from around the house and a water pistol / squirty bottle / hose(!).
Develop their problem solving:

1. Make a target out of old cardboard. Colour in different sections and decide together how many points each section is worth. Then play your version of darts.
2. Use old plastic bottles places around the garden and see who can shoot the most down. Create a list of rules together first like: where you have to stand; how many turn you get. See if the rules are fair, and talk about what would have made it easier/harder.

There are lots of other ideas on our social media pages (see bottom banner), and another activity coming soon!

For secondary school children:

1. Have a look at science experiments with water on YouTube like: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yety_SrrO2Y
 - Have a go at following the instructions.
 - See if they can give instructions to a relative or friend (via Zoom or in the garden) so they can do the experiment without watching the video.
2. Design a water park for LEGO people or a toy person using household items.
 - Talk about what is in a water park, and how it could be recreated
 - Create the water park, if parts don't work, what can you do to fix it?
 - Try and predict what will and won't float, then see if you were right!

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