



Literacy Grab & Go Toddlers (1½ - 2-year-olds)

Activity Title: Let's Pretend, Opposites

Domain: Language

Activity Purpose: Help your child learn opposites as well as get them moving their body to follow directions with this acting game.

Rationale

Opposites, or antonyms, are an important part of children's language development. Naming opposites is an effective way to build a child's vocabulary.

Materials: none

Description of Activity:

1. Tell your child that you are going to pretend to do different actions or feel certain feelings, and then you're going to do the opposite of those actions. For example:
 - "Let's pretend to be sad." (You both make a sad face, pretend to cry, etc.) "Now, let's pretend to be happy." (You both smile, laugh, etc.)
 - "Let's pretend we can run very fast. Now, let's pretend we can only run very slow."
 - "Let's pretend we need to reach up very high. Now, let's pretend we need to grab something that's low."
2. Continue as long as you want to with other opposites such as: in/out, over/under, up/down, strong/weak, sleepy/awake, etc.

Lagniappe:

Pretend play builds thinking, social, and language skills. Play does not have to be long and can be easily done in short amounts of time, including transitions. For example, as they are brushing their teeth in the morning, you could pretend you are robots who are programmed to brush teeth fast and then slow.

Pretend play is great for younger children. Focus on helping your child move their body or objects to follow simple directions related to position (e.g., in, on, under, over, up and down).