LANGUANGE AND WORD PLAY ACTIVITIES

I Spy & What’s Missing

*I Spy*: Find an object in your present environment. Give clues about the object by saying, “I spy something...” Guess the object based on the clues given.

*What’s Missing?*: Cut out pictures from old magazines, newspaper, and junk mail. Place 3-6 random pictures in a row and talk about each picture. Have your child close their eyes and remove one of the pictures. Have your child name the missing picture.

Poetry & Rhymes & Tongue Twisters

Chants, Finger Plays, Poems, and Tongue Twisters give children opportunities to play with words. Select chants, nursery rhymes, and poems that have rhyming words and a rhythmical sound to them. Say and read them together, sing them together, or have your child echo the lines to you. Add motions as in finger plays for another mode of learning.

Tongue twisters are enjoyed by all ages of children. Recite well known tongue twisters such as Peter Piper or make up your own.

Interactive Storytelling

Retell a familiar story with or without props. Some options for engagement are to act out the story as it is being told, take turns telling the story by stopping at key points, or rewriting the story in another setting, with different characters, or from another point of view.

Vocabulary Stretch

Challenge your child with learning a new word each day. Go to www.dictionary.com or www.wordthink.com to find words. Talk about the word of the day and see how many times it can be used throughout the day. Have a contest and keep track of who in the family can use the word accurately the most times throughout the day. Hold a conversation in the car, at the dinner table, or at bedtime to see if the word can naturally enter the conversation.

Choose multiple meaning words used in conversation and in print. See how many ways the word can be used in different contexts.

Absurdities, Analogies & Idioms

*Comics*: Use comic strips to expose your child to absurdities from humor. Have your child find specific comics that use humor to express an author’s point of view or message about a certain topic. Talk about the illustrations and words the author uses.

*Object Lesson*: Give your child 2-4 objects and have them figure out relationships between at least 2 of them. An additional challenge is finding several ways the objects are related.

*Scavenger Hunt*: Talk about idioms (words and phrases that mean something different than the actual written words such as “cat got your tongue”) with your child and send them on a hunt through various print sources to find idioms. Keep a running list that is handwritten or cut and pasted in a word document on the computer.