



## EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES TO BUILD VOCABULARY

### TIPSHEET-6: bath time

Building your child's vocabulary does not always have to involve setting up separate activities and games in your already very busy lives. One of the most powerful ways to build your child's vocabulary is through your natural interactions together during your day to day activities and routines.

**Bath time:** Most children love bath time. They are often happy and relaxed in the water and it provides us with many perfect opportunities to provide simple language models, through commenting or talking about what is happening in the environment as it occurs.

**Examples of vocabulary you can use during bath time:** There are a huge range of words you can use during bath time which include nouns (names); verbs (actions); adjectives and adverbs (descriptive language). Below are some examples of suggested vocabulary which you can use during bath time. Of course the lists can be endless, so use whatever words/vocabulary that fits for you and your child. I have chosen a vocabulary of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs that relate together. For example you can count your child's toes and talk about tickling them! Remember if your child is not yet talking or only has a limited vocabulary make sure you keep your language model simple (single words or 2 words together).

#### NOUNS

bath/water/tap  
tummy  
feet/toes  
hands/fingers  
face/eyes/nose/mouth/ears  
bubbles  
duck/fish/crocodile  
boat  
cup/container  
towel  
clothing (pants/dress/t-shirt etc.)

#### VERBS

splash/"don't touch!"  
wash/dry  
tickle  
clap/wiggle  
touch/point  
blow/pop/all gone  
swimming/jumping/drinking  
push/stop/go  
pour  
dry  
help

#### ADJECTIVES/ADVERBS

hot/cold/warm/in/out  
clean/dirty  
one/two/three/four/five  
up/down  
wet/dry  
big/little  
"quack"/under/"snap snap"  
fast/slow  
in/out/full/empty  
"peek-a-boo"  
on/off/colours

**REMEMBER:** Children learn best through rhyme and repetition, so don't be afraid to repeat the same word over and over again!!! Make up your own silly little rhymes or sing familiar songs such as "row the boat" or "this little piggy". It can take some time for children to learn new words. If your child is not naturally imitating the words don't worry. Keep talking and providing an ongoing commentary as this is an appropriate technique to use all day long every day (if you feel like you can manage it). If you feel that your child needs something a little more than commenting/talking, try the language stimulation strategies outlined in tip sheets 1, 4 & 5.

Always contact a speech and language pathologist if you have any concerns regarding your child's speech and language development.

Kath Keiper (Paediatric Speech Pathologist; creator of "Can you sound like me?")

Visit [www.chewchewchatter.com.au](http://www.chewchewchatter.com.au) for more information

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