

## **Fun, Interactive Activities for Families with Children During Self-Isolation**

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### **Reading & Books**

Reading is a simple activity you can do at home to build speech and language skills. Here are some links and ideas on how to enhance your reading experience and increase language opportunities at home. Hamilton Public Library is now offering families the opportunity to register for an E-Card. Register today for your E-Library card at [www.hpl.ca](http://www.hpl.ca)

- Hamilton Public Library: <https://www.hpl.ca/>
- Tumble Books: <https://www.tumblebooklibrary.com/Home.aspx?categoryID=77>
- Scholastic: Learn at home grades Pre-K/K:  
<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome/grades-prek-k.html>
- Oxford Owl Books: <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>
- Story Books Online: <https://storybookscanada.ca/>
- Dialogic Reading – Talking with your child about the pictures in a book without reading the words – this is great for early learners to develop vocabulary: <https://dialogic-reading.blogspot.com/>
- Document supporting adults in reading to their children:  
[https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.osla.on.ca/resource/resmgr/interest\\_groups/osla-reading\\_develops\\_langu.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.osla.on.ca/resource/resmgr/interest_groups/osla-reading_develops_langu.pdf)

### **Play**

Play is one of the best ways to support language learning with your child. You have everything you need at home! The following strategies are helpful when engaging your child during play in order to support language:

- Play at your child's level
- Play with something your child is interested in
- Use lots of comments during play and try to keep questions to a minimum
- Add simple, descriptive words
- Use action words
- Give the child time to respond
- Have fun!

Ideas for play:

- Blocks
- Loose parts
- Dramatic Play: House, Dolls, Kitchen, Race Cars, Action Heroes, Construction Worker
- Water play

### **Interactive Songs, Rhymes, & Stories**

Enjoy time singing with your children! Sharing interactive, repetitive music is a great way for children to build language, vocabulary, learn rhyming, and sequencing. You can use these resources to learn new songs. Families can go on to the website and learn the song or story and then share with the family in order to avoid screen time.

- Cosmic Kids Yoga – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ImHIWzP49M>
- The Learning Station: <https://www.learningstationmusic.com/blog/2014/01/24/20-favorite-childrens-songs-lets-get-moving/>
- Super Simple Songs: <https://supersimple.com/article/our-five-favorite-fingerplay-songs/>

### **Interactive Crafts and Activities**

Creating crafts and engaging in activities are great speech and language learning opportunities. You can use these opportunities to develop turn taking, requesting, vocabulary, and modeling speech sounds.

- Weekly themes: <http://scholastic.ca/>
- 35 easy activities to do at home: <https://busytoddler.com/2020/03/easy-activities-for-kids-stuck-at-home/>
- Printables for kids:
  - <http://kizclub.com/>
  - <https://www.dltk-kids.com/>

### **Simple Language Building Opportunites**

- Place small toys in ice cube trays. Fill with water and freeze. Remove from freezer and discover different ways to free the toys. Hot water, Salt, Time, Light.
- Save toilet paper rolls. Tape them to the wall in a pattern. Drop cotton ball through tubes and see where they go.
- Put tape on the floor, stand behind the line and throw balls (or a rolled up pair of socks) into laundry basket.
- Go for a nature walk and collect sticks, rocks, and leaves. Come home and paint them.
- Build forts out of blankets.
- If you have Google Home you can request “Musical Chairs”. The Google Home will ask you how many players and play the music accordingly. It will instruct you when to stop.
- Go outside and play Red Light, Green Light.
- Puzzle race: adult has a puzzle and child has a puzzle, see who can finish their puzzle first. OR do the puzzle together.

### **Screen Time**

We understand in this difficult time of social distancing it can be challenging to limit your child’s exposure to screens. We encourage you to use the above resources as a tool to support interactions and learning with your child.

- For more information on screen time, please see the following link:  
<https://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/screen-time-and-young-children>  
How do I choose the right apps, videos or programs for my child?
- Whenever possible, make screen time an activity you and your child do together. Watch with your child and talk about what you’re seeing.
- Choose educational, age-appropriate and interactive programs and apps. Educational apps have a clear learning goal and encourage participation.

\*For further information on speaking with your child about the Coronavirus please visit this link:  
<https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-coronavirus>

Disclosure: ASCY and Early Words are not affiliated with any of the above mentioned websites. They have been provided solely to promote learning opportunities.