**Talking, listening, questioning**

These activities will help your child to develop more complex language and communication skills.

1. **The magic bag game** Collect some of your child's favourite toys and put them into a 'magic' bag. Take it in turns to pull one out of the bag and say what it is. Encourage your child to use a full sentence: eg "This is a red car".

* You can make this game trickier by asking your child to close his/her eyes while you pull out a toy and then describe it, eg “It is small, it is red, it has 4 wheels”. Once your child understands what to do, let them have a turn at describing. Watch out though, they might need a little bit of help not to just tell you what they have taken out!

1. **Where do animals live?** Create different animal habitats such as a farm, seaside, woodland, a zoo. If you already have some toys to make these that’s great, but you can easily make some using things around your house. For example, a blue cloth would work well for the seaside, sticks for a woodland, boxes for a zoo, and tablemats for farm fields. If you don’t have any toy animals your child can draw some or cut some out from a magazine.

* Ask your child to choose an animal and then say where they think it will live. Encourage them to use full sentences, eg “This is a cow. It lives on a farm”
* When all the animals are sorted, ask your child to count how many there are in each place. Can they say which place has more or less? Are any the same?

1. **Stations game.** Using the same 4 animal habitats, place these in different corners of a room. Play some music and ask your child to move around the room. When the music stops, choose an animal and ask “Where does a … live?” Your child should then stand at the right corner.
2. **Story.** Choose a story about an animal to share with your child. Ask them to look carefully at the pictures and talk about where the animal lives.