Speech Ease

Language and Play

Why is play important and how does it benefit language development?

- Play and language develop hand in hand
- They mirror each other, as a child meets developmental play milestones they also meet certain language milestones.
- Multiple studies and research have shown that children who engage in play, especially pretend play, tend to develop higher language skills and more vocabulary.

Building language and vocabulary through play

- Engaging in play presents children with more opportunities to build their language.
- For example when playing with objects, they can build their noun vocabulary. If a child is playing with food toys, they will be exposed to the name of the food and eventually name them.
- Play supports children to learn verbs (action words) too eg. they can have their character fly.
- When describing their play, they have the opportunity to put their play and actions into words to form longer sentences.

Language and play milestones
More information about language and play milestones can be found on KidSense:
Play and Social Development Charts - Kid Sense Child Development