

June Article: Summer time Language Activities

This month talk about Summer Topics like picnics, going to the beach, taking nature walks, having BBQs and visiting family. Name weather words such as sunny, cloudy, foggy, rainy.

Make your own weather wheel. Fun project and easy to do. All you need is a paper plates, clip art or pictures from a magazine and velcro strips or a brad. Have your child help paste your pictures onto a paper plate. Cut out an arrow from the second paper plate, plop on some velcro on the back of your arrow then onto the wheel and you are done.

Create a summertime dress up bin; sun hats, sunglasses, goggles, bathing suits, sandals, mask, snorkel. Have the mirror handy as this increases the fun factor. I have noticed kids enjoy dress up more when the clothes are from mommy's and daddy's closet!

Take a nature walk and bring along some toy binoculars. They make looking around and naming things more fun. Model sightings for your child using carrier phrases such as, "Look a _____" or, "I see _____". Include descriptive words too; sticky, fuzzy, smelly, pretty, rough, holey, dirty, soft.

Plan a picnic in your backyard. Talk about the things you may need; basket, food items, napkins, utensils, blanket. Have your child help gather the food, put it in a basket and bring the blanket out to the yard. And of course, name the insects that want to attend your picnic as well.

When you head to the beach, plan a sand activity. A sand castle or mountain is always fun. Add some language by decorating it with shells you find on the beach. Bring some cars for the sand and build roads and tunnels. Target prepositions: inside, on top, bottom, around, through, next to, in back.

Take a field trip to the strawberry farms. Picking strawberries is a fun language experience and yummy too!

By introducing vocabulary and phrases that are related to the activity, new concepts and words become more meaningful. While doing these activities remember to identify and name objects, verbs, use simple phrases and encourage your child to imitate your prompts. If they don't repeat the prompts no worries. Many times kids don't talk about

what they are experiencing because they don't have the script. I often recommend modeling 1-2 words more than your child is currently producing even though they can process longer sentences. The idea here is to nudge verbal expression. Be repetitive and keep it fun. Your child will learn what to say the next time around so be sure to rinse and repeat!