



# Support Language Skills Through Water Play

Do your kids love to play in  
water?

Use these simple additions to  
your play routines for  
supporting language, literacy,  
executive functioning, and  
more!

# Water Play

## Receptive Language

- Play Simon Says: Have your child “splash, scoop, dump” the water; have them find or hide water tools or animals
- Have your child follow simple directions to turn on the hose and fill up a bucket or water table
- Play Red Light Green Light: Have your child swim, splash, or kick the water with either stop/go or fast/slow

## Literacy Skills

- Point out/help your child identify the name of the pool, signage for restroom/locker room, and where to enter.
- Sing songs, such as “It’s Raining It’s Pouring” while pouring water or “Splish Splash I Was Taking a Bath”.
- Point out letter sounds ...”water”...”w---water”...”water starts with “w”. “I wonder what other words start with ‘w’”.

## Expressive Language

- Pour water between containers, saying a word or phrase to describe it (e.g. “pour”; “dump the water”). After saying it a few times, **pause** and see if your child will say (or attempt) the word/phrase
- Take Turns. When you go swimming or to the splash pad, take turns describing a characteristic of the water (temperature, depth, color) or describe an action (e.g. spray, dump, trickle). **Wait** for your child to attempt before you correct them or help with an answer.

## Executive Functioning

- Tell your child you are going swimming. Ask them to name (and then get) the items they may need. Do not correct them at first, but let them try. Once they gather the items, discuss each item’s function and see if they can identify what they are missing. Help them, if not.
- Tell your child you are going outside to play water table. Have the table empty. When they get out, see if they can problem-solve (or request) what they need. Help them, but try not to do it for them.

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## References:

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