



Using Fill in the Blank with Children who use Gestures & Sounds

Ideas for Using Fill in the Blank During Activities



Play

- Play a game of peek-a-boo. After 2-3 turns, hide your face and say, "Peek-a-..." Wait for the child to try to say "boo." Once the child responds, show your face and smile.
- Blow bubbles for children. Hold the bubble wand to your mouth and say, "1, 2, ..." Once a child makes a sound or gesture to fill in the blank with "3" and blow the bubbles.
- When playing with pop-up toys, establish a "Ready, set, go" routine before each turn. After 2-3 opportunities, say, "Ready, set..." and allow the child the opportunity to



Daily Routines

- Name food items while pointing to them during lunch. After 2-3 labels, point to a food and pause to give an opportunity for children to label the food.
- Sing a familiar song during diapering, then pause so the child can fill in the blank. "Head, shoulders, knees, and..." As soon as the child gestures or makes a sound, sing the word and continue the song.
- Teach children greetings with fill in the blank. When a familiar person comes into the room, say, "Look, it's..." and see if the child will gesture or make a sound for the person's name. Then, model the name. "It's Cameron. Hi, Cameron!"



Books

- Read books with simple sounds, such as animal, car, or silly sounds. This will make it easier for children to respond when you use fill in the blank. "The dog says..."
- Add familiar songs to picture books to encourage fill in the blank. If you are looking at a picture book with animals, you can point to a picture of a cow and sing, "The cow says..." to the tune of "Farmer in the Dell," pausing so the children can attempt the animal sound.
- Count books as you and the children are putting them away in a basket. Then, pause to see if the children will try to say "book." "1 book, 2 books, 3 books, 4..."

Fill in the Blank

Plan a delay in a predictable routine, song, or common phrase to encourage the child to communicate.

