



Ball Play

Materials:

Ball, preferably a large, soft ball

Great for a child who:

Is learning to interact and play with others

Is learning to use words to make requests

Is learning to request/say more, go, stop

Is learning descriptive concepts such as up/down, fast/slow

Is learning descriptive concepts such as under, on, out, in

Is learning to imitate exclamatory words (such as wee, yay, uh oh)

Is learning to answer where questions

Enjoys movement and active play

How to play:

This activity may work best for some children with two adults or an adult and older sibling so that one adult can face the child and one can model/help the child to play and engage.

Show your child the ball and sit on the floor facing your child. You can sing “Roll the Ball” to the tune of “Row your Boat”. *Roll, roll, roll the ball. Roll, roll, roll the ball.* Sing the song slowly and pause often. Create a routine by singing the same song and using familiar language. Second verse: *Bounce, bounce, bounce, the ball. Bounce, bounce, bounce the ball.* After the routine is established pause and wait between while you are singing to encourage your child to fill in the word.

Use the ball to work on following directions by having your child bounce, throw, or roll the ball to you. You can have your child put the ball on her head, in a basket, under a chair and talk about where it is.

This is a fun activity that you can enjoy with your child! Encourage and model words your child is learning such as up, down, go, stop, more, all done. Follow your child’s lead. If they

aren't interested in rolling or throwing the ball to you, try having them throw balls in a container. If they ring the container, encourage them to imitate exclamatory words such as YAY, AWW MAN, UH OH.