

The Perfect Box

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THE Listening Room
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It's a common jest that the child has more fun with the box than the toy that came with it. Simple games are often the best.

There are social toys and isolate toys. Social toys like a ball, a frisbee, a board game, are only fun with another person. Isolate toys are toys that can be played with by yourself. A puzzle is a good example. We can have more success talking with and playing with our child when we use toys that are only fun when we play together. Sometimes that means less toys are better. This "perfect box" activity is a perfect example. Take a small cardboard box and cut off the flaps. Turn the box upside down. Use scissors to cut one of the flaps into a ladder and use packing tape or duct tape to attach it to the top of your box as shown in the photo below. Tape another flap to the other side as a slide. Cut a door in the front. Cut a hole at the top. Now we can take any three toy animals that our child likes and bring them to our new box house. Say "Come on cow! Mooooooo. Up up up. Go up the ladder". Now make the cow go up the ladder as you say "Up up up" again. This pattern TALK-DO-TALK AGAIN or TALK-SHOW-TALK AGAIN is very effective for leading your child to listen.

Here are some more ideas for common phrases and sounds to do with the perfect box...

door: "Knock knock knock....open!",
"Wow...I see a doggie...Woof Woof",

hole: "No no no! Don't push",
"Oh Oh! He fell down", "Boooo Hooo,
Waaahhhh", "Its ok cow...Give him a
kiss"

slide: "One...two...three...weeeeeee",
"My turn! Okay sheep, let's go....Baaaaaaa"

play time: 12 to 18 months



You will come up with lots of your own things to say as you play...have fun!