The best coach for your kids is you!

Have fun coaching your kids...

CAMPAIGN FOR LEARNING

The best coach for your kids is you!

- You know what you do really matters, but how can you put the **5Rs** into practice?
- Here are some simple, cost free ideas that will help to develop your coaching role and help your child to learn.
- All these games will help your child become a brilliant learner.
- The level of each game is aimed at a toddler, with suggestions of how to make it more challenging for older children.

The Resourcefulness Game

This is about using everyday objects to tell stories and stimulate imagination.

STEP 1

Find an everyday object. It could be a stick or a leaf from a walk, or a shoe, or a spoon.

STEP 2

Ask your child what else it could be. These questions are the starting points for stories. Let your imagination run riot!

Examples:

Could the stick be a magic wand or a snake? If it is a wand, who owns the wand? Is it a wizard or a fairy or a magician? Are they good or bad? Can you use the wand to make some magic? What spells would you make?

Could the leaf be an animal's boat? What type of animal is it? What is the animal called? Where is it sailing to? Why is it going there? What happens when it gets there?

When your child is very young, you will have to answer as well as ask the questions. By nodding and shaking your head to each answer you give, you can get them involved in shaping the story.

STEP 3

Tell your child a simple story about the people, animals or things that you have talked about.

STEP 4

Ask them to paint or draw a picture of the story.

Stories help your child to learn how to listen and to talk. This means that even tiny babies will benefit from story telling. As your child gets older, they will be able to offer more of the answers to the questions and will soon be able to tell you the story.

The Remembering Game

This is about helping your child to develop their memory skills by using different techniques and more of their senses.

STEP 1

Choose 6 small objects from your home, (increase this number as your child gets older or if they find the game very easy). Try to choose a range of different things and include things that have different colours (like toy cars), different textures (like a teddy or a sponge), different sounds (like a squeaky toy or musical instrument) and different smells (like a piece of fruit).

STEP 2

Put the objects on a table or tray where your child can see them.

STEP 3

Ask your child to look at the objects and then close their eyes and turn their back on the objects, while you take one away and hide it behind you.

STEP 4

Ask your child if they can tell you what has gone. Small children will find this quite difficult. If they do guess, praise them, but add a couple more objects next time you play. If they can't remember, ask them questions, for example, 'Was it a car or was it an apple?' Then show them what it was.

STEP 5

Next time, help them to remember the objects by letting them hold each one. Ask them questions. Is it soft or hard? Does it make a noise? Ask them to smell the object. Ask them what colour it is. With very young children, you will need to ask and answer the questions yourself to start with, but listening to you will help them to understand things like colours very quickly.

STEP 6

Ask your child to close their eyes and turn their back on the objects, while you take one away and hide it behind you again.

STEP 7

This time, if they guess correctly, praise them again and remind them that the object is red/soft/rattles etc. If they can't remember, give them clues; e.g. asking if the object you are hiding is red/soft/noisy. You can also try to sound out the first part of the word. Always praise the effort, even if your child does not guess the object.

This is a very simple game, but it helps develop their memory skills through play. Don't let them get frustrated by waiting too long to show them the object if they can't guess it.

The 'You are brilliant' Confidence Game

We could all do with extra confidence at times.

One of the biggest barriers to learning is feeling that you can't do something. This game will help your kids believe in themselves and give them confidence to learn new things.

Think of something small that your child did well. It could be something simple like drinking from a cup or throwing a ball. Tell your child that they were brilliant when they did this and you are going to make a 'Brilliant' hat together.

You can either use a cap or hat that you already have, or make one out of card or paper. Draw a big 'B' on to a piece of card and let your child colour or paint it. Cut it out for them and stick it on to the hat. When they struggle to do something, give them the 'Brilliant' hat and remind them how brilliant they are.

These resources were created by the Campaign for Learning.
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CAMPAIGN FOR LEARNING

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