

Waltham Forest Early Years Guidance

Support for Communication and Language Needs



People games

People games help children learn important play skills – staying close to another person, attention to others, taking turns, initiating interaction, enjoying being with other people

People games are played without toys-just people!

Think about what the child likes and consider their sensory needs - this will make it more motivating and encourage them to communicate and ask for the game to keep going. So, a child that likes running might enjoy chasing or races.

These are just a few options to try. There are many more! And you can even make up your own people games.

- Peek-a-boo
- Rough and tumble
- Tickling games
- Ring a ring of roses
- Finger games- round the garden
- Horsey rides
- Hide and seek

Repeat the game a few times and then pause at the end to see if they let you know they want you to do it again.

The most important thing about people games is that they are fun!

Remember to:

- get face to face
- copy actions, noises and words
- repeat what you're doing
- observe and wait – stay close by, watch and notice how the child interacts, wait to see if they initiate with you
- Persist – if the child moves away, follow them, observe and judge how far to persist, try again later or another day