



Playtime Connections: Bubbles!

CONNECTING & LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

BUBBLES	Bubbles are affordable, easy to find, and great fun for everyone! There are so many skills you can work on while playing with bubbles during your everyday routines. Routines are things you do every day with your child. These routines include getting the mail, washing dishes, doing laundry, running errands, playing, etc. – things that are consistent and repetitive. Play Routines include playing with objects, moving your body, exploring objects with your senses, learning social interactions, communicating with others and singing songs!
PLAY	Work on requesting “bubbles.” Pause every few seconds and wait for your child to respond. Watch what they do – are they reaching for the bubbles? Gesturing? Trying to open the container? Encourage them to request “bubble” or “more” or “please.” They can do this by using the sign, word, or a picture card. Model this first and then help them if needed. Reinforce all communication by blowing more bubbles!
MOVE	Popping bubbles is a perfect way for your child to practice the fine motor skills of “poking” and “pointing.” You can also work on visual tracking by observing how your child follows and tracks the bubbles. Catch a bubble on the wand and see if your child can track the bubble side-to-side, and up-and-down. Can they follow it in a circular motion? Do they visually track when the bubbles are in the air and not on the wand? Encourage gross motor movements by having them “jump” or “stomp” on the bubbles when they land on the ground.
EXPLORE	A bubble bath is a fun sensory experience! Place some bubble bath in the tub and let your child play while bathing. Model language while popping the bubbles on their head, tummy, hands, toes, etc. For some children, a full bubble bath may be overwhelming. You can fill a plastic container with water, bubble bath, sponge, washcloth, etc. Then, gather a variety of toys (cars, blocks, etc.) for your child to wash!
LEARN	Blowing bubbles is a great way to work on turn taking. After you blow the bubbles, hold the wand for your child and encourage them to blow. This also encourages lip rounding and oral airflow – which are important for speech. Take turns popping the bubbles and chasing them around.
TALK	Encourage your child to imitate gestures, signs and/or word approximations (for example, “buh” for “bubble”). If your child is consistently producing single words, expand on that and model 2-word phrases, (e.g., “pop bubble, more bubble”). If your child is producing 2 words consistently, model 3-word phrases, “more bubble please, big bubble pop etc.” Target the words “bubble, big, little, please, more, up, down, my turn, pop, uh-oh, etc.”
SING	Children love music and it’s a great way to reinforce language and movement.

To the tune of "My Bonnie"

My bubble floats over the (name object)
My bubble floats over the (name another object).
Bubbles go here and there –
Bubbles are everywhere!

My bubble floats over the couch.
My bubble floats over the chair.
Bubbles go here and there –
Bubbles are everywhere!

Bubbles All Around

(To the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star")

Bubbles floating all around
(pretend to catch bubbles)
Bubbles fat and bubbles round
(hold arms in big circle)
Bubbles on my nose and toes
(point to toes; point to nose)
Blow a bubble – up it goes!
(blow and then point up)
Bubbles floating all around
(pretend to catch bubbles)
Bubbles...falling...to...the...ground.
(sing slowly and move arms to the ground)

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Brainstorm other daily routines where you can target some of these skills.

PROBLEM SOLVING, REFLECTION & FEEDBACK:

Think about how things went when you tried these activities with your child. What went well? What will you do differently or try next time?

