

# Bonus



**SUBSCRIPTION BOX ITEMS:** Bath toys different sizes (ducks, sharks, alligators), bathtub



**TARGETS:** Requesting, Imitation, Pairing, Functional Play, routine establishment

*Hello everyone, play is only the beginning. We are beginning to introduce communication. We are trying to cause a change in your child's mind that words have power. Words are efficient and words make things happen easier than any other method. We are beginning with cause and effect toys and high interest toys that will make them wonder...hmmm how does this work?*

## ACTIVITY

**1** Take bath toy package provided (feel free to buy others that you find interesting). Put it in plain view in front of child. Pick up bath toy package and put it down so that child can easily see it. You must be fascinated by toy. Make appropriate sounds like, "Wow did you see that!" or "Oh my goodness the duck wants to swim! We need to OPEN it." Highlight OPEN. "Open" is an easy to say word associated with the toy. You want to make sure there is no confusion if the child asks for it. If child says nothing, take their hand and make a sign for open. You can look up signs online. **DO NOT USE MORE OR ANOTHER GERALIZED WORD!** In early communication, you want consistency of labels and no confusion. Take any variation of the word to open the toy package. You want child to know that their word made things happen and nothing else. No more than 3 attempts and then give reward by opening the package.

**2** Take a bath toy (feel free to buy others that you find interesting). Put it in plain view in front of child. Open bath toy package and put it down so that child can easily see it. Again, you must be fascinated by toy. Make appropriate sounds like, "Oh my goodness the duck wants to swim!" Highlight an easy to say word associated with the toy. My suggestion would be to choose a label to avoid confusion if the child asks for it. Say "DUCK." If child says nothing, take their hand and make a sign for the duck. (available online) **DO NOT USE MORE OR ANOTHER GERALIZED WORD!** (see above) Take any variation of the word then give toy to child. No more than 2 attempts and then give reward by making toy do something like jumping/splashing in the water. Pause. Say, "DUCK and point to it." Then pause again. No matter what give toy. See if child will attempt an imitation.

**3** Take any bath toy. Put it in plain view in front of child. Open bath toy package and put it down so that child can easily see it. You must be fascinated by toy. Highlight an easy to say word associated with the toy. Now pick an action word. Say "SWIM, DOWN, UP, JUMP, FLY or WOOSH." If child says nothing, take their hand and make a sign for the action. (available online) Take any variation of the word you choose then make the toy do the action then give the toy to the child. No more than 2 attempts and then give reward by making toy do something like jumping/splashing in the water. Pause. Repeat action word chosen previously. Then pause again. No matter what give toy. See if child will attempt an imitation.

**4** Put bath toy in a clear container the child cannot open and place lid on it. Make sure the container is sturdy and will not open if it is thrown to the ground. Put the container in view of child but out of reach.

See what child does to ask for item. They can use any sign practiced before or any variation of words practiced before. You want child to know that their word made things happen and nothing else. Give the item for attempts. No more than 2 attempts and then give reward. Initially we encourage attempts, accuracy will come later.

**5** Feel free to add any items to the containers and have child ask for them. Use same steps as above to get them to use words for access to items. Keep in mind, you want saying a word to be the easiest and quickest access to the toys. If they say a word from the start, give them the item right away. If you have to help them use the word, make sure there is a short delay present. You always want using words to be the easiest and quickest. You can add songs to go with the bath routines. Play songs in background or sing yourself.

Throughout the month, hide different items in the containers so that there is a surprise each bath time. Kids love to open things and find surprises they can play with in the water. This month practice objects and actions. These are the beginning of sentences. Try these same methods with other things. Good luck with this month's activities! Enjoy!