

**By joining in and playing together, you create many opportunities for your child to learn more language and to practice talking with you.**

## **Instead of ...**

Insisting that your child play with a toy of your choice ...

Watching your child play from the sidelines ...

Telling your child what to do with the toys ...

Feeling reserved and self-conscious when playing with your child ...

## **Try to ...**

→ Watch to see what toys your child finds interesting, and then play along.

→ Get your own toy and copy what your child is doing with that toy (if appropriate).

→ Get your own toy and show him/her how to play. Pretend play is important for language development, so model simple pretend actions (e.g., feeding, combing hair, sleeping, dressing, washing, etc.) for your child.

→ Forget about how you look and be playful – you are the best toy in the house! You will get your child’s attention by using an excited voice, fun words (e.g., “oops”, “weee!”, “crash”) and lots of gestures/facial expressions.

