



TELEPHONE TALKING

Materials you need:

- Real phones of different sizes – landlines, mobile phones, push button etc. You can usually find them very cheaply in op shops. Ensure there are no batteries left in the mobile phones.

Setup for play:

- Sit down with the babies and hold a phone to your ear as you talk. Say a short sentence "hello....". *insert child's name*
- Hold the phone to baby's ear now and repeat the same sentence. Speak into the phone again but this time pretend to have a longer conversation and slip in words baby is already familiar with like bye-bye, Daddy, bottle.
- Pass the phone back to baby and see if she speaks some of those words into the phone.
- This is a simple activity to do with baby's 6-10 months but you can also extend this to include toddlers. Use more descriptive and familiar words for the toddlers.
- Leave the collection of phones easily accessible on the bottom of a shelf or just on the carpet in a basket for the toddlers to lead their own play and add to other toys and activities.

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What are they learning with this activity?

As the children talk into the phones they are learning to:

- Use descriptive language and become independent communicators
- Manipulate equipment and real-life tools with increasing competence
- Strengthen fine motor muscles and control
- Use their play to imagine and explore ideas
- Use their imagination to explore real life events
- Develop new vocabulary and language skills

Extending the play:

- Help baby and toddler become aware of different sounds in their environment by pointing out and then naming sounds daily as they play. Children playing, planes when outside, birds, phone etc.
- Use the phones to set up an office dramatic play invitation for toddlers to explore.

