

# Playing With Balloons (And Learning Words)

1. Together with a child, bat a balloon back and forth between both of you. Talk about 'back' and 'forth', 'up' and 'down', and/or 'my turn' and 'your turn'.

2. Hit the balloon back and forth with small paddles or tennis racquets. Talk about making the balloon go 'high' or 'low', 'left' or 'right', 'under' or 'over' objects.



3. Try to keep a balloon afloat as long as possible. Say 'up' each time you get the balloon in the air and 'down' each time it lands. Count your hits or time with a clock.

4. With several different colored balloons, match like colors together. Talk about same/different or alike/not alike. Count how many in each group.

5. Match different colored balloons to like colored objects in your home or outside. Be sure to label the colors.

6. Rub a balloon on your clothing and place the balloon to different parts of your child's body. Label the body parts where the balloon attaches. Talk about friction.

7. Set up a target, such as a laundry basket to toss the balloon into the target.

8. Blow up different sizes and shapes of balloons, such as long ones and round ones. Hit the round ones with the long ones, such as a bat and a ball. Pretend to play baseball.

9. Hide the balloons around the house and give your child clues to find them. Ex. "It's in a place that is cold, has food in it, and has a door on the front. Where is it?"

10. Fill the balloons with water and compare the differences between air-filled and water-filled balloons. Play toss with both types of balloons. Make sure it's a warm day!