

Playing with Balloons (And Learning Some Words!)

1. Take a balloon and bat it back and forth between your child and yourself. Talk about 'back' and 'forth', 'up' and 'down', and/or 'my turn' and 'your turn'.
2. Take small paddles or tennis raquets and hit a balloon back and forth. Talk about making the balloon go 'high' or 'low'.
3. Try to keep a balloon afloat in the air as long as possible without using hands. Say 'up' each time you get the balloon in the air.
4. Take several different colored balloons and match the same colors together. Talk about same/different or alike/not alike.
5. Match different colored balloons to like colored objects in your home or outside and label the colors.
6. Rub a balloon on your clothing and 'stick' the balloon to different parts of your child's body, labeling the body part where the balloon sticks.
7. Set up a target, such as a basket to shoot the balloon into the basket.
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 pretending 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!

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