

## **10 IDEAS TO ENHANCE LANGUAGE AS YOU PLAY TOGETHER WITH A VARIETY OF TOYS**

Example: barn, house, gas station, school, airport, doll house, musical instruments

1. Describe the action for your child as s/he is creating it. Place emphasis on particular words of interest, such as nouns and verbs. Ex. "The **frog** is **jumping**."
2. Repeat and expand on whatever your child may say. Ex. Child says: "Boy sleeping." Adult says: "Yes, the boy is sleeping in bed."
3. Find and label parts of the objects or toys.
4. Count different items or parts of the toy.
5. Find different colors and/or match them within the toy. Continue to match to items within the immediate environment.
6. Create a story with your child about what is happening as you play. Ask him/her what might be going to happen next.
7. Find and describe similarities and differences between items or parts of the toy.
8. Create rhymes about what is happening during play. Don't be afraid to make up silly words.
9. For musical instruments, create a rhythm and see if your child can repeat it. Start with easy 2-3 beats, then make then increase difficulty.
10. Use different toys with the toy of choice to expand the play scenario. Ex. Introduce action figures to the dollhouse.