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August Activity Sheet

Packing for summer holidays can be fun!

If you're heading off on holiday this summer, involve your child in getting ready. If you're not going away you can always pretend! How about this: Put up a play tent in the garden or make a pretend tent indoors with a big sheet and a table.

You will need:

- your child's rucksack or trunkie or other carry case/holdall.
- some items of your child's summer clothing, eg shorts, flip-flops, swimming costume, sunglasses, hat, t-shirt.
- some play materials, e.g. teddy, pad of paper, crayons/felt pens, play-dough, inflatable ball, toy car, book.
- Holiday brochure pictures or similar of where you are going (optional).

Step One: Sit down on the floor together. Explain in simple sentences that you are going on holiday, and where you will be going, i.e. seaside/countryside/farm/camping or whatever. Briefly go into what you might see and do there. If you have brochure pictures it would help to look at these together.

Step Two: Tell your child that you are going to play a packing game. Spread out just a few of the items in front of you - say up to 5 for 2 - 3 year olds, up to 10 for 4 - 5 year olds. Name the items as you lay them out. Your child may be able to say what they are too. Tell him/her that you need his/her help to pack all the things for the holiday. Before you begin, tell him/her to listen carefully.

2-3 Years: Use very simple "one-part" commands, and ask him/her to find each item, one by one. For example, "Where are the sunglasses?" "Put the sunglasses in the bag". If he/she doesn't know the word you can help him/her.

If he/she is enjoying the activity, bring some more items to be packed. As he/she picks up the items see if he/she can say what they're for.

Over 4 years: ask him/her to find the items by their function, or description, eg. "Find something to draw with/read", "find something that is yellow/round".



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You could try a larger selection of items and instruct him/her to find and pack 2 or 3 at a time. If he tries to rush in and pack everything at once, just say calmly, "Wait, listen". Then give the instruction, e.g. "Pack the sunglasses and the toy car".

Extension: Ask your child if he/she needs or wants to take anything else. Perhaps he/she can think of what is needed for different activities, e.g. going to a muddy/wet place.

Variation: Do the same activity together but this time pretend that your child's favourite teddy or doll is going on holiday.

How does this game help language to develop?

- ✓ By developing attention control and listening skills
- ✓ By developing understanding and thinking skills
- ✓ By introducing new vocabulary and descriptive language
- ✓ By developing conversational language