



Purposeful Ongoing Play

Enhancing Language Skills Through Play

Parent Tip Sheet (P.O.P. Sheet) on... **Bowling**

- * Below are some ideas that can be used, but don't feel you have to use them all every time you bowl. Just pick 2 or 3 that you feel comfortable with and enjoy doing.
- * First, bowling at a bowling alley can be expensive, but play bowling sets are fairly inexpensive at various dollar stores and thrift stores.
- * Verbally draw your child's attention to the bowling set: the bowling pins, the ball(s), their color, their number (most play sets have at least 6), their size. "Look at the bowling pins!" or "There are six bowling pins!" or "We're going to bowl with the bowling ball!"
- * Bowling "actions" can be described in many ways, so emphasize different action words as you play (e.g., bowl, throw, roll, knock down, knock over, hold).
- * If you're at a bowling alley, verbally point out the basic things associated with the activity, such as the special bowling shoes, the different sized balls, the long lane, the pins, and so on. Incorporate the labels and language associated with the bowling activity *naturally* as you play.
- * Verbally tie body parts with associated action words such as, "You're holding the ball with your hands!" or "The bowling shoes go on your feet!"
- * Point out what happens when rolling or throwing the ball hard or fast versus when doing it gently or slowly.
- * For little ones, it's okay to call out "Strike!" even if not all of the pins are knocked down. The excitement of knocking down any number of pins and your reinforcement of that will keep your child engaged and will allow for repetition of the activity as well as repetition of all the vocabulary you are modeling.
- * Enjoy playing...and strike out!!!



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