

Fishfingers

What do you need?

- Just you and your child

How to do it

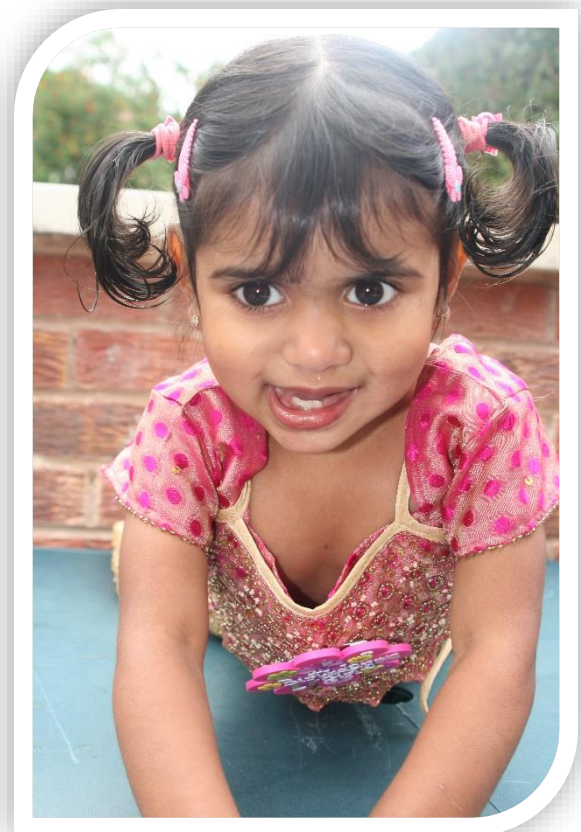
Fishfingers is a lovely word game to play with children and can be very simple at first and can become quite advanced as children grow. The idea is to say a word such as “fishfingers” in as many funny and silly ways as possible. The best thing about this game is that it doesn’t even matter if children get the word right or not because it will still help develop their speaking. For very young children it is a simple game of you saying fishfingers in a variety of different ways. The idea is to help a child experience the fun of language even when they can’t yet speak themselves. Because young children identify most with the faces of their parents it is important we do this one face-to-face and use as many facial expressions as possible.

Try saying “fishfingers”

- In a squeaky voice
- In a deep voice
- With a happy face
- With a sad face
- As if you are a dog or cat
- With a really thin mouth
- With a really wide mouth.
- Whilst pulling funny faces

Above all make it fun with lots of smiles. This will encourage a child to see how much fun facial expressions and words can be and they will eventually want to copy this behaviour. The more we can make language silly and fun the faster children will want to develop it.

If your child can already speak and join in you can start saying fishfingers together. This can start simple with very basic emotions.



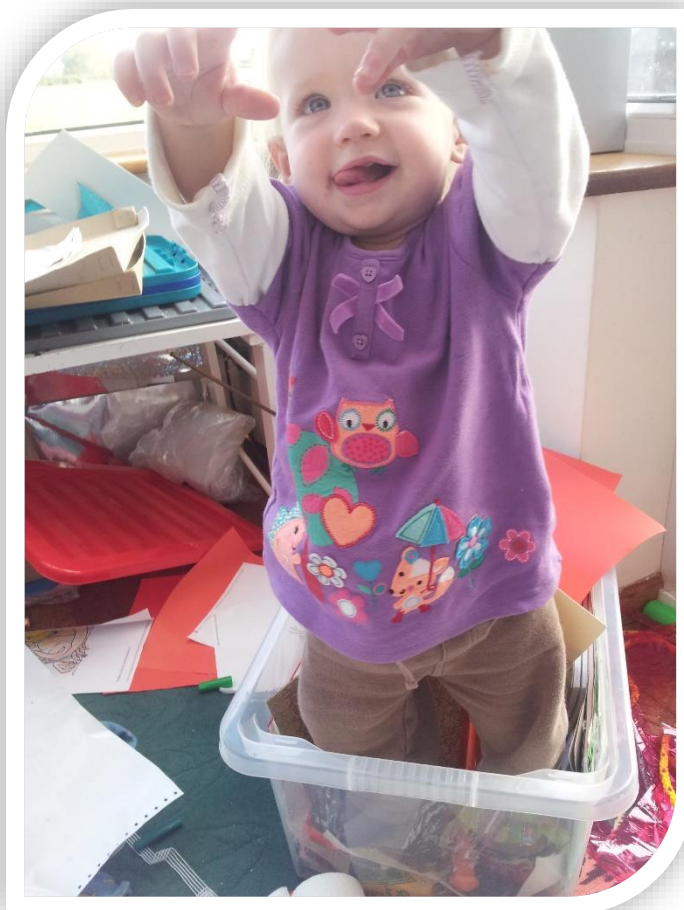
Let's say "fishfingers"

- as if we are happy
- as if we are sad
- as if we are cross
- as if we are tired
- as if we are eating our dinner
- as if we are a dinosaur

Not only does this make words fun it is also exploring emotions which is an important part of growing up and positive behaviour. As your children get older you can make the emotions more complex.

Let's say "fishfingers"

- as if we are giggly
- as if we are suspicious
- as if we are frightened
- as if we are excited.
- as if we are monkeys
- as if we have just run a really long way
- as if we have opened a really nice present
- as if we are eating lovely cake



So long as we make it fun it is OK to explore negative emotions such as sadness and fear because this will help children to understand these emotions more.

Once children are used to the game they can even suggest ways for you to say "Fishfingers". Keep it fun and silly and don't worry if the child says "Fishfingers" not quite correctly or doesn't understand. There is no wrong way to do this. Also you don't have to say "fishfingers" you can use any word you want for this game, why not try "sausages" instead? Above all this game is about silliness and pretending, but it is a really powerful way to help your children with their language and to understand their feelings. Older children can really go to town with this game and we use this same game with our teenagers as well as our young children. If you want to see a 4 year old playing this game you can look at a short video.....

<https://youtu.be/Q4CCoDftcSw>