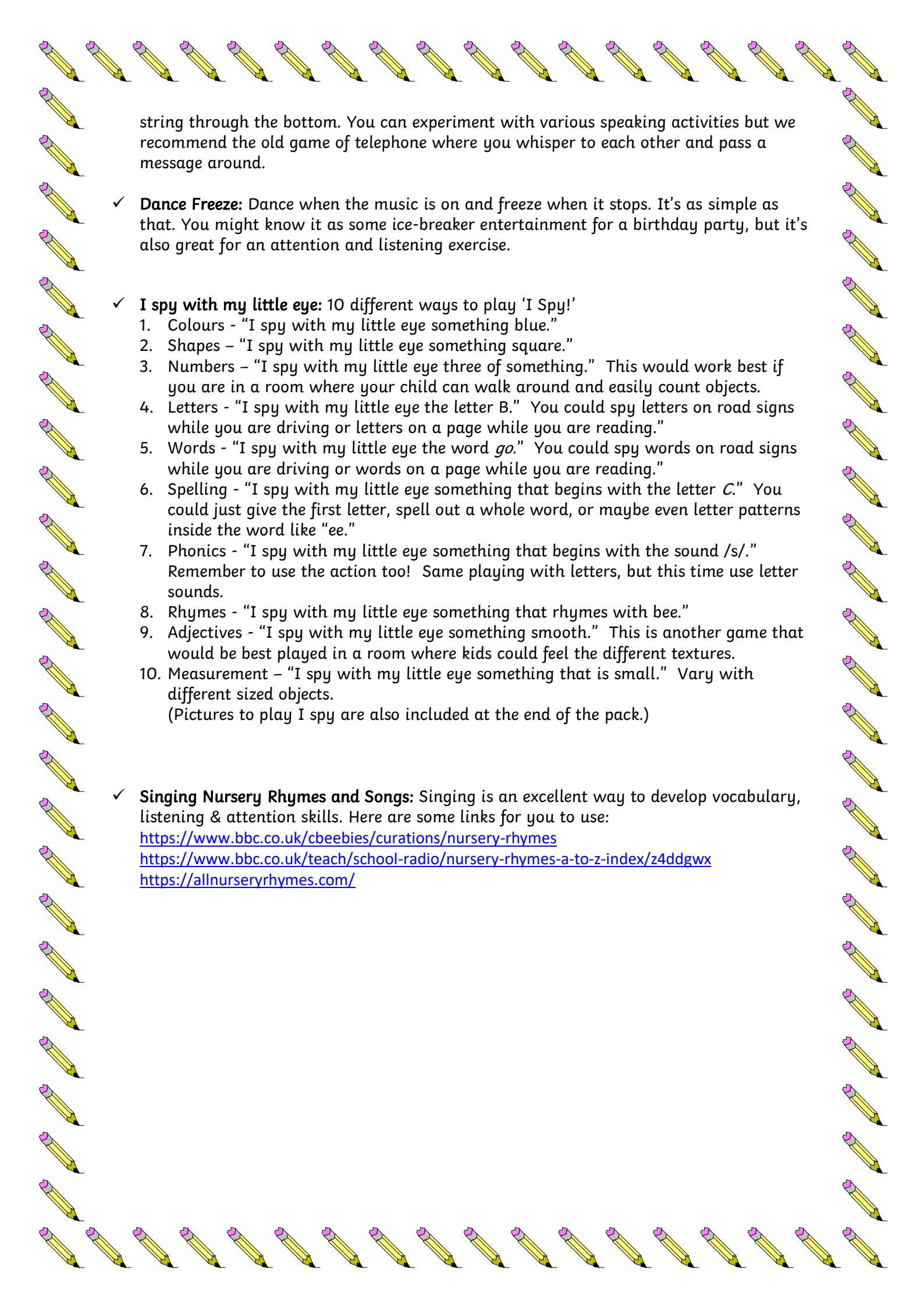




# Ideas & Activities to Support Speech, Language and Communication at Home

- ✓ **Talk about a Picture or Photo:** What can you see? What colours can you see? Can you spot any shapes? Where is the picture? Do you like the picture? What is happening in the picture? Can you tell a story about the picture? What could happen next? (Examples at the end of the pack.)
- ✓ **Pairs Game:** A large variation of the good old pair matching game! Take several paper plates and markers and write some letters, draw shapes, animals or other items. Turn then upside and then start trying to find and match the pairs. (Matching Pair Game also included at the end of the pack.)
- ✓ **Memory Games:**
  - **“I went to the shop...”** Start by saying 'I went to the shops today and bought...' something beginning with A (e.g. apple) Then continues by saying the previous item (apple) and then something beginning with B (e.g. banana). Continue working through the alphabet, adding one more item to the end of the list each time.
  - **What's Missing?** Place a number of household items onto a tray (the more items, the more challenging the game so for younger children start with just 3-4 items and increase from there). Ask your child to have a close look at the items on the tray. Name them together (the more you discuss the items the more likely your child is to remember them so you could ask them what colour or shape each item is or what it is used for). Cover the items with a tea towel. Ask your child to close their eyes and as they do so remove one item from under the cloth. Ask them to open their eyes, remove the cloth and tell you what's missing!
  - **The Magic Cup Game:** Place three identical, plastic cups in a line on the table, rim down. Place a pom-pom or small ball under one cup, allowing your child to see which cup the pom-pom/ball is under. Shuffle the cups around by sliding them across the table, switching their positions quickly back and forth and all around. Once you have stopped moving the cups ask your child to identify which cup the ball is now under.
- ✓ **Family photos:** A lovely opportunity to get out old family photos and discuss each one. Who was there? Where was it taken? What was the weather or season? What can you remember about that day? Using these photos can you make a simple family tree?
- ✓ **Board Games:** Do you have any board games at home that you haven't played in a while? A lovely way to interact, develop language and encourage turn taking skills!
- ✓ **Books, books, books!** Please continue to read as much as possible at home. This includes reading aloud to your child as well as asking them to read to you. You can also use their Phonics and Tricky Word Books to help your child spot known sounds and words. The Oxford Owl website has some great resources for parents.  
<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/>
- ✓ **DIY telephone:** This simple, crafty telephone will engage children for hours. All they need to do is paint or colour some plastic cups, poke a hole in each of them and thread



string through the bottom. You can experiment with various speaking activities but we recommend the old game of telephone where you whisper to each other and pass a message around.

- ✓ **Dance Freeze:** Dance when the music is on and freeze when it stops. It's as simple as that. You might know it as some ice-breaker entertainment for a birthday party, but it's also great for an attention and listening exercise.

- ✓ **I spy with my little eye:** 10 different ways to play 'I Spy!'

1. Colours - "I spy with my little eye something blue."
2. Shapes - "I spy with my little eye something square."
3. Numbers - "I spy with my little eye three of something." This would work best if you are in a room where your child can walk around and easily count objects.
4. Letters - "I spy with my little eye the letter B." You could spy letters on road signs while you are driving or letters on a page while you are reading."
5. Words - "I spy with my little eye the word *go*." You could spy words on road signs while you are driving or words on a page while you are reading."
6. Spelling - "I spy with my little eye something that begins with the letter *C*." You could just give the first letter, spell out a whole word, or maybe even letter patterns inside the word like "ee."
7. Phonics - "I spy with my little eye something that begins with the sound /s/." Remember to use the action too! Same playing with letters, but this time use letter sounds.
8. Rhymes - "I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with bee."
9. Adjectives - "I spy with my little eye something smooth." This is another game that would be best played in a room where kids could feel the different textures.
10. Measurement - "I spy with my little eye something that is small." Vary with different sized objects.  
(Pictures to play I spy are also included at the end of the pack.)

- ✓ **Singing Nursery Rhymes and Songs:** Singing is an excellent way to develop vocabulary, listening & attention skills. Here are some links for you to use:

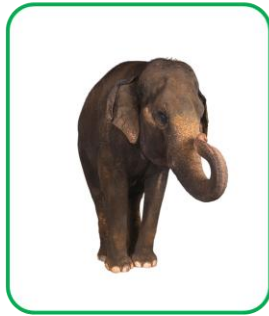
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/curation/nursery-rhymes>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-a-to-z-index/z4ddgwx>

<https://allnurseryrhymes.com/>



Matching Pairs Game:



Blank Cards: Make your own matching pairs game! You could use sounds, letters, animals or numbers.


I Spy:

