

“Playing” with Core Words

Core words make up 75-80% of everyone’s daily life however they are not easily represented in symbols. It’s important to model the use of core words to ensure kids understand their meaning so that they can begin to use them. The chart below offers some suggestions of core words that can be modeled during play.

Core Word	Bubbles	Cars	Mr. Potato Head	Reading
Up/Down	Bubbles up high Bubbles down low	Up ramp Down Ramp	Hat “up” Hat “down” *where to place hat?	
Open/Close	“Open” toy bag/box “Close” toy bag/box	“Open” toy bag/box “Close” toy bag/box	“Open” toy bag/box “Close” toy bag/box	“Open” book “Close” book
In/Out	Get bubbles “out”* Put bubble “in”* *from bag/box	Get cars “out”* Put cars “in”* *from bag/box	Put hat “in” hole	
Slow/Fast	Blow “fast” Blow “slow”	“Go” + “fast” “Go” + “slow”		“Go” + “fast” “Go” + “slow”
Big/Little	“Big” bubbles “Little” bubbles	“Big” car “Little” car		“Big” book “Little” book “Big” character “Little” character
More/ All Done	“More” activity “All done” activity	“More” activity “All done” activity	“More” activity “All done” activity	“More” activity “All done” activity
Different	“Different” wand? “Different” activity?	“Different” car? “Different” activity?	“Different” hat? “Different” activity?	“Different” book? “Different” activity?
Again	“Again” OR “Do” + “again” (blow more bubbles)	“Do” + “again” (crash car) “Fast” + “again” “Slow” + “again”	“Again” OR “Do” + “again” (repeat activity)	Read page “again”? Read book “again”?
Help	“Help” * *To blow bubbles	“Help” * *To push	“Help” OR “Help” + “in”* * To put hat on	“Help” (turn the page)
Go/Stop	1,2,3 “Go”! * *blow bubbles	“Go” (push car) “Stop”(hand stops car)		

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