



Get some much needed help when you're doing the laundry with these fun activities and games.

Try comparing different items of clothing and finding something the same about them and something **different** about them. For example jumpers and cardigans – they are the same as they keep you warm, but cardigans have buttons and open and jumpers don't.

Semantic categories – Encourage your child to sort clothes into different categories or groups .If your child needs some help begin with putting very obvious groups together. For example, you can sort clothes by colours (whites, blues, reds) or by types (shirts, pants, socks). When your child can do this easily suggest that you put all the clothes that come in pairs in a pile or all the clothes with sleeves or all the clothes with buttons together. Try putting a pile of clothes together and asking your child to say why they all go together.

Have fun working on Phonological Awareness by modelling alliteration as you work with the laundry for example the smelly socks, tight trousers, cuddly cardigans, or dazzling dresses. Encourage your child to try and find items of clothing with that start with a named sound turn it into a game by playing I spy with my little eye something that starts with the sound B.

Select a category of clothing i.e. all the tops and add in a pair of trousers. Can your child find which is the odd one out and can they tell you why all the others go together.

Laundry time is a good time to work on vocabulary. Ask your child to help you pull the clothing from the washing machine name each of the items as you pull them out. To support understanding of words, you could ask your child to put in a 'sock' or 't-shirt' and see if they can select the correct item.



When you are sorting the clean washing you can practise language for clothes and possessives ('This is Mum's top.' or 'These are Jenny's socks.'). When putting away the laundry pretend you have forgotten who the item belongs to and ask your child "Whose coat is this? This allows them opportunities to say "It's Daddy's coat" or "Molly's Coat." Give your child items of clothes to put away saying "This is Peter's jumper can you put it in **his** drawer" or "This is Molly's coat can you hang it in her wardrobe."

Encourage them to try a talk about how the clothes feel – are they smooth or bumpy?

Talk with your child as you read labels, such as tags in clothes ("The tag says to turn this shirt inside out") or words on machines ("Let's turn the knob to 'delicate'"). Hearing new words helps expand your child's vocabulary When you are doing the laundry, talk to your child about the colours and fabrics (cotton, wool, etc.) of the clothes.

This activity helps with Following Instructions. When loading the machine empty the clothes into a pile and ask your child to bring you the socks. You can make the instruction more difficult by asking your child to bring you the **blue socks**, or **daddy's socks**. You can make the instruction more difficult again by asking the child to search the pile of clothes and bring you **daddy's blue socks** or the **big red shorts**. It's a good idea to start off with very simple instructions, and you might need to practise the same kind of instruction lots of times., before moving on to more difficult instructions.

This is a great hands on opportunity to experience concepts in a multi sensory way. Allow your child opportunities to feel, see and hear you label the concepts. Sort the clothes into clean and dirty piles. Explain or show your child why you think they are dirty or clean. Ask your child to help you hang the clothes on the line explain and let them feel that they are wet let them bring them in when they are /dry. Loading and unloading a washing machine provides lots of opportunities for saying in and out!

Practise the same kind of instruction lots of times