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Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale

Education Committee

**4.6 Understanding and using doing words in simple sentences**

**Why is this important?  
This activity encourages children to build sentences using two key words: it  
also helps to widen vocabulary.**

**This is an important step in the development of grammar.**

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What to do  
• You will need:  
★ Teddy and doll (or two other favourite toys).  
★ Cup, brush, item of food, flannel.  
• Put out teddy and doll and two different items (e.g. cup and flannel). Say:  
★ ‘Make teddy drink.’  
★ ‘Wash doll.’  
★ ‘Make doll drink.’  
• You could also ask the child to make doll or teddy perform an action that doesn’t  
need any additional items (e.g. sleep, run, hop, sit, wave, clap).  
★ ‘Make teddy jump.’  
★ ‘Make teddy sit.’  
★ ‘Make doll sleep.’  
• When the child has successfully followed an instruction,**

**ask ‘What’s happening?’  
Encourage the child to use a two-word phrase to describe**

**(e.g. ‘teddy jump’, ‘doll drink’).  
• If the child doesn’t respond or uses a single-word (e.g. ‘jump’), offer a choice:  
★ Adult: ‘Make teddy jump.’  
★ Child follows instruction correctly.  
★ Adult praises: ‘Well done. What’s happening?’ (points to teddy).  
★ Child: ‘Teddy.’  
★ Adult: ‘Is teddy sleeping or teddy jumping?’  
★ Child: ‘Teddy jump.’**