



# Purposeful Ongoing Play

## Enhancing Language Skills Through Play

### Parent Tip Sheet (P.O.P. Sheet) on... Mr. & Mrs. Potato Head

- \* Below are some ideas that may be used, but don't feel you have to use them all every time you play with a Potato Head. Just pick 2 or 3 that you feel comfortable with and can easily do.
- \* Introduce the vocabulary naturally as you play, putting on and taking off the specific pieces, talking about what you're doing and describing the piece, such as "Let's put on the red nose!" or "You took off the black hat!"
- \* Begin with the most basic body parts if those are not ones your child is identifying and/or verbally expressing, such as eyes, nose, mouth and ears.
- \* If you have several sets, you can compare similar pieces and sort them by color or size. You can also have your child put on pieces based on their characteristics, such as "Find the blue shoes and put them on his/her feet."
- \* As you're identifying and naming the Potato Head parts through play, point out your child's body parts, commenting and asking: "Here is Mr. Potato Head's nose! Where is your nose? Here is mama's nose!"
- \* For a more advanced activity, have your child put on specific body parts based on the senses you name, such as "Put on what Mr. Potato Head needs to see things all around!" or "What does Mr. Potato Head need to smell things?"
- \* Move on to other body parts once the basic body parts are mastered, such as head, mustache, teeth, lips, arms, hands and feet.
- \* Once 2 or 3 Potato Heads have been assembled, tell a fun story using them as the characters!
- \* Also emphasize accessories as you play, such as hats, purses, glasses, earrings, shoes, and so on.



By Ana Paula G. Mummy, Speech/Language Pathologist, MS, CCC-SLP

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