

# Making Connections At Home Vroom Tip™ Collection

## See and Say

**Vroom Tip:** In the kitchen with your child, describe what you're doing, especially if you notice they're interested in something, like pouring water in a bowl or cup. Say things like, "Water goes in the cup." See how they respond. They might look at you and then look at the cup.

**Brainy Background:** You motivate your child to learn more about the world around them when you notice what interests them. Talking about what you're doing introduces them to lots of new words and helps them connect those words to things.

## Song Traditions

**Vroom Tip:** There are things we do every day. Sing the same songs at those moments to explain what you're doing with your child. Examples could be leaving a room, finishing eating, or washing hands. What else do you do daily that you could sing about?

**Brainy Background:** Children love traditions. Singing about your shared daily moments adds to the comfort of a known routine. It also helps your child connect these moments and new words. They love learning language from your sing-song voice.

## Mirror Me

**Vroom Tip:** Children feel many different emotions every day, just like you. Make faces that mirror how your child seems to be feeling. Talk to them about why you're making those faces. "You're smiling and seem happy, and I am smiling and happy too."

**Brainy Background:** When you imitate the face your child makes, you help them express what they think and feel even though they can't speak yet. These conversations without words begin to help them learn about others' feelings and emotions!

## Water Works

**Vroom Tip:** Hand-washing time? Tell your child, "This is the HOT water (point to the faucet); this is the COLD water. Together they make warm water! This is the soap. Soap and water make BUBBLES that clean our hands. Now, let's rinse off the bubbles. Can you help me dry my hands with this towel?"

**Brainy Background:** You're helping your child learn a routine that will keep them healthy and sharing the science of how things work (hot and cold make warm). If they're just learning to use words, you can prepare them for what's about to happen, by using a word they love, like, "We're going to wash our hands—BUBBLES."

### What Do You Feel?

Vroom Tip: Put some safe items your child loves—like an egg carton, plastic bottle, or small box—into a bag just for them. They can play with the full bag. When they reach in, ask, "What do you feel? Is it an egg carton or a bottle?"

Brainy Background: Who needs expensive toys when learning possibilities are limitless from everyday objects! This activity promotes the skills of paying attention and making connections between what your child remembers by sight and feels by touch.

### Would You Rather?

Vroom Tip: Ask your child questions like, "Would you rather be a bird or a fish? Why?" Have them give you a few reasons from real-life experience like, "I love the water, so I want to be a fish!" Then you take a turn answering their questions!

Brainy Background: Asking and answering questions helps develop reasoning skills—especially when you ask questions that go beyond simple yes or no answers.

### Recap the Day

Vroom Tip: Turn bedtime into a reflection of your child's day. Ask them if they got dressed or ate breakfast first. Tell what you remember too. If you want to be playful, switch the order: "You went outside and then you got dressed." Have them correct you.

Brainy Background: Helping your child describe parts of their day helps them build their communication skills.

### I Pick, You Pick

Vroom Tip: When you're getting your child dressed in the morning, pick out their pants and then ask them to find a shirt that matches the color of those pants.

Brainy Background: This game helps your child make connections and group similar things. They might have a good reason for why things go together, so listen to their ideas. If their idea won't work, explain why.