

Extending the Literacy

As your child develops his or her hand/eye coordination and is able to roll the ball and hit what he/she is aiming for, you can extend the learning of literacy found in games like Target Ball by having your child attempt a few specific goals. However, remember, you don't want to do all of these examples in one day of playing the game. These activities should be made over multiple days of playing Target ball. Remember to only play Target Ball for as long as your child shows interest. It is your job to make the game fun! Don't push too hard by focusing only on the academic aspects of the game.

- a. Have your child roll the ball attempting to knock over all the bottles that have a red label. *This is helping your child work with their knowledge of color identification.
- b. Have your child roll the ball attempting to knock over all of the bottles that have a letter "S" for example, on the label. *This is helping your child work with their knowledge of the alphabet and letter recognition by letting your child become aware of the look and sound of each letter used.
- c. After knocking over the bottles a number of times, change the bottles to soup cans. Now your child can roll the ball at all the cans starting with "T" (Tomato Soup) or "G" (Green Beans, Garbanzo Beans, etc.). *This is helping your child work with her knowledge of the alphabet and letter recognition by letting your child become aware of the look and sound of each letter used AND by using specific letters at the start of the word your child is starting to isolate the first letter and sound of a word.
- d. To extend this even more, once your child knocks over the can, have your child tell you another word they know that starts with the same letter (Tacos, Tiger, Teacher or Grapes, Gorilla, Girl). *This is helping your child work with their knowledge of the alphabet, letter recognition, and letter sound recognition skills.
- e. To further your child's literacy skills, feel free to create your own labels, and tape these on the bottles. You could work on specific letters or words, depending on the developmental needs of your child. For example, create a few labels that involve names of family members. This is helping your child work with her knowledge of the alphabet and letter recognition by letting your child become aware of the look and sound of each letter used AND by using specific letters at the start and end of the word your child is starting to isolate the first and last letters and sounds of a word.