



TOCA KITCHEN MONSTERS

*Toca Kitchen Monsters is an interactive App where your child can choose foods from a fridge, prepare them, then feed two different monsters! **Free** on App Store or Google Play ('Toca Kitchen 2')*

Supporting Language Development

By using the app interactively with your child, you can help them to develop their use and understanding of language. Only choose one or two skills to focus on at a time!

Following Directions: Directions can have 1, 2, or 3 steps and can include concept words like the ones below. Take turns giving each other directions!

- **Temporal concepts:** “before”, “after”, “then”
Example of 2-step direction: “before you feed the monster, you need to cut the food”
- **Sequence concepts:** “first”, “next”, “last”
Example of 3-step direction: “first choose a food, then cook it, last feed the monster!”

WH-questions: Ask your child WH-questions while they play

- “*What* are you going to make?”
- “*Which* food does he want?”
- “*Where* should we put the food?”
- “*Who* is going to eat it?”
- “*Why* doesn’t he like it?”

If your child cannot answer the question, give them a choice to help them (e.g., “where should put the food – in the microwave or in the blender?”)

Pronouns: Decide whether your monster is a boy or a girl. Then talk about what the monster is doing using the words he/she or his/her (e.g., “**he** is eating **his** food”, “**she** is cutting **her** food”, “**he** wants a lemon”, “**she** doesn’t like it!”)

Vocabulary: Use these words while your child is playing to talk about what they are doing. You can give them choices to help them use the words (e.g., “what are you going to do – cut it or fry it?”)

- **Core vocabulary words:** want, more, my turn, all done, eat, help, like, don’t like (these can be modelled on your child’s core board or AAC device!)
- **Action words:** cut, chop, cook, boil, feed, eat, drop, fry, blend, taste
- **Description words:** yummy, yucky, salty, sweet, spicy, sour, healthy, burnt, wet
- **Higher-level vocabulary words:** delicious, disgusting, gobble, refuse



Basic Concepts you can practice with Toca Kitchen Monsters:

Hot/cold: “Is the lemon hot or cold?”, “you’re frying the meat – do you think the pan is hot or cold?”, “That food looks hot!”

In/Out: Talk about putting food **IN** the monster’s mouth, **IN** the pot/pan, **IN** the microwave. You can say “he spit it **OUT**!” when the monster doesn’t eat the food, or “take it **OUT** (of the pan, or pot)” when the food looks done

Big/Small: Talk about how your child is making the food big or small (e.g., “wow - you’re cutting it so small!”, “that’s a big piece!”)

On/Off: Talk about putting food **ON** the plate, salt **ON** the food. Talk about taking food **OFF** the pan, **OFF** the table.

Negation: Use words like “not” and “no” (e.g., “He does **NOT** like that!”, “salt or **NO** salt?”, “he **DOESN’T** want it!”)

SPEECH SOUND PRACTICE

You can also use the *Toca Kitchen Monsters* app to help your child practice their speech sound goals. Below are some possible target words, depending on your child's goals. Check with your child's SLP to find out which sounds to practice.

- /k/ sound
 - o cook, cut, carrot,
 - o yuck, ick, cook
 - o Phrases: "I can ____", "stick it in/on", "I pick ____"
- /f/ sound
 - o find, food, full, fun, funny
 - o off
- /l/ sound
 - o like, love, lick, lemon, little
- 'sh' sound
 - o shake, share
 - o fish, wash
- /s/ sound
 - o sour, salty, silly
 - o messy
 - o Phrase: "I see ____", "something is missing"
- s-blends:
 - o spin (when spinning food around in the pot), spiky (fruit in fridge), stop (e.g., stop, no more salt! stop, it's burning!), stir, smell
 - o Phrases: stick it in his mouth, spit it out, start cooking

Keep in mind...

Your child may be working on their special sound at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of words.

Your child may be practicing their sound by itself, in a word, or in a phrase.

Check with your child's SLP to determine what level and word position you should be working on.

Tips for Using Apps with Your Child:

Play with your child. Screen time can be beneficial if you use it to connect socially and have a conversation. Your child needs you to model these speech and language targets for them - they won't learn them alone!

Limit your child's screen time. Look into your device's settings on ways to limit or track screen time.

Try it in real life! After you practice with the app, try what you learned in your own kitchen at home (e.g., try blending something, taste a food and say if it's delicious or disgusting, find something that is sour or salty etc.)

