Play with words and numbers

Parent Corner
In Grade 1, children must be able to identify sounds, build simple words, simple sentences and later paragraphs. They should also be allowed to tell us what they think through their drawings and other creative ways. As parents you play an important role by making reading and counting (mathematics) part of your routines and lifestyle in an easy and playful manner. You can do this by telling or reading stories to your child and also by involving her with basic counting. For example, “Count with me how many spoons of oil I add to the cake mix.”

Book of the day
Sbu’s Special Shoes tells the story of Sbu’s little brother who finds her shoes. When he tries them on, he finds out that the shoes are very special. Read the book to find out why Sbu’s shoes are so special. Download this book (it’s free) on your smart phone: https://books.google.co.za/books?id=REJdEStKdN4C

Online Resources
FREE online applications (Apps) recognised by the Department of Basic Education (linked to the curriculum) are available.
2Enable register here: https://www.2enable.co.za
Also visit the DBE’s Cloud at: https://dbehcloud.co.za

Learning together is FUN
Do the following activities with your child. It is linked to the work that he or she is already doing in class. In this way you help him or her to stay up to date with his or her learning.

This word means...
The meaning of a word can change when we use it in a different sentence. Look at the different meanings of ‘kind’ in the following sentences: “She is a kind person.” “Apples and oranges are two kinds of fruit.” The best way for young children to get to know and understand this, is through stories that you tell or read to them.

Make some time and read a story with your child. Use any storybook that is available and right for her age (see Book of the Day). Talk about the cover of the book and let her guess what the story will be about.

Turn the pages correctly as you talk about the pictures. As you read the book together, let her tell what she sees in the pictures. When words are difficult, ask her what she thinks they mean by reading the sentence again.

Also explain the meanings of these words to her.

More or Less
Make a poster that has pictures of 2 animals, 5 persons, 10 flowers, and 2 houses on it, on the side of a cardboard box.

You can draw these pictures (or have your child draw them) or cut them out of an old magazine.

Give your child 20 counters (bottle caps) that he will use to count. Ask him to count how many animals there are on the poster, using the bottle caps. Then he should count the number of persons, then the houses and then the flowers. Each time he needs to put the bottle caps together in a group.

Next, ask him which groups are larger than the animals; which groups are the same, and which groups are smaller than the persons group. Let him figure this out on his own (but help him when he struggles).

Play today
Let’s make 5. This is a fun game that you can play indoors or outdoors with your child, or the whole family.

This is how it is done:
Say any number between 1 and 5. For example, “I have 4 and need a certain number to make 5. What is the number?” Answer: “You need 1.” A quick answer is given without working out the number.

After giving the answer, you then ask, “Which number is more?” Answer: “4 is more than 1.” “I have 2 and need a certain number to make 5. What is the number?” Answer: “3.” “Which number is more?” Answer: “3 is more than 2.” Take turns. Play for 10 minutes.

Remember to keep it PLAYFUL and FUN. That is how children learn.