

**The Director Role:** Parents direct their children's lives every day. They plan what their children will eat, what they will wear and when they will go to bed. But sometimes parents play the role of Director too often. They do most of the talking, telling their children what to do and how to do it. They may not realize that over-directing can get in the way of their child's learning. Children learn best when they lead interactions.



*Robert wants to find the page with the monster, but his dad is playing the Director role, insisting that they read the book page by page.*

What colour is the fire truck? Can you count the wheels?



*When Brian's mom takes on the role of Tester, she's too busy asking questions to OWL and notice what has really captured his interest.*

**The Tester Role:** Parents want their children to learn new skills. If a child isn't developing language as expected, her parents may think they need to work even harder to help her learn. So they take on the role of Tester, asking lots of questions to see what she's learned. But testing a child doesn't help her learn. A child learns best when she is having fun and her parents are tuned in to her interests.

**The Entertainer Role:** A parent in the Entertainer role is lots of fun and does whatever it takes to keep a child amused. The Entertainer tends to take the lead, doing most of the talking and playing. The problem is that the child doesn't have much opportunity to interact and be part of the fun. To learn language, children need to be actively involved in the interaction.

Look at Mr Elephant. He's going to eat some leaves from a big tree.



*Scott enjoys watching his dad be the Entertainer but he doesn't have an opportunity to get involved.*