Speech and Language Therapy Activities
Understanding of Language

Understanding single words
Objects

What is it?

A child who understands single words knows the name of an object, and can give it to you on request, for example "give me the car".

How can you help?

The following tips can help to develop a child's understanding at one word level:

- Label things that they are looking at
- Offer them choices between items (e.g. 'do you want milk or juice').

Activities to try:
Feely Bag

1. Fill a bag with approximately 5 everyday objects and/or toys e.g. brush, ball, banana, teddy, spoon, book etc.

2. Pull out each of the objects one by one, labelling them as they are taken out of the bag. Allow your child to explore the objects and model what you do with each one for your child. For example, brush hair with the brush.

3. Talk about the object and repeat and model the name of the object for your child as many times as possible. For example, 'X's got the brush, the brush. X's brushing his/her hair with the brush.' This will help him/her to relate the word s/he is hearing with the object.

4. After, you have explored all the objects with your child take two of them out of the bag and label them e.g. 'banana' and 'ball'. Then ask your child to locate one of the objects whilst you are holding them in front of your child, for example, 'X where's the ball?'

5. If your child is unable to locate the correct item, tell him/her 'here's the ball' and again let him/her explore the object.

6. Once you have explored all the items in the bag replace them with 5 new objects and repeat the activity, as above.
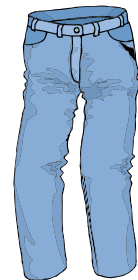
Books
As your child points to a picture in a book, give them the picture label. This way you are following your child's interest and developing their language by providing him/her with the word.

Routines
Give your child names of items during familiar routines, for example, washing and dressing:

E.g. Adult labels: 'wash hands'
                      'wash face'
                      'socks on'
                      'trousers on'

This way you are keeping your language very simple so your child can understand. As they know the routine they can also focus completely on the language you are using and the activity they are doing.

Jigsaws
Label jigsaw pieces as your child selects them e.g. 'ball', 'cat'. If he/she says a word without a model from you, repeat it back to him/her and *add* a word.

Post Boxes
Your child will enjoy posting pictures and objects into a home-made postbox. See if they can find and post a picture/object from a choice of two. If your child is successful at this increase their choices to three.