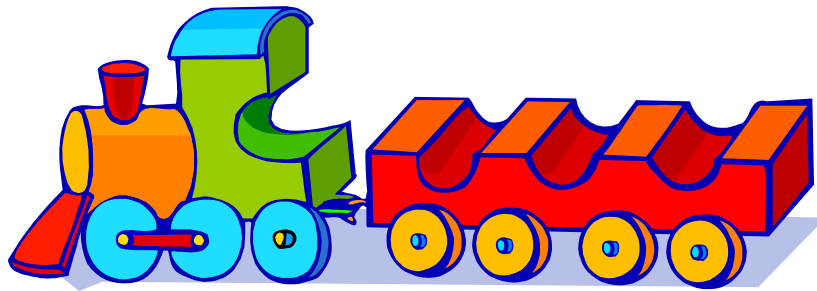


SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY PROGRAMME

Developing Early Language

The aim of this programme is to further expand and develop your child's vocabulary and expressive language. The programme contains a number of activities and ideas for aiding early language development.

Remember to have fun with the activities!

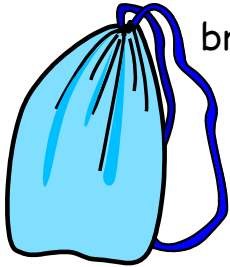


Name:

Activities

Feely Bag

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



2. Pull out each of the objects one by one, labeling 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

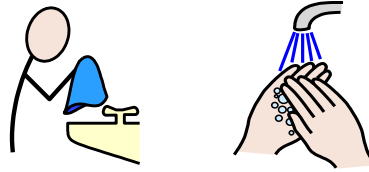
As your child points to a picture in a book, give them the picture label. This way you are following your child's interest and developing their language by providing him/her with the word.



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.

Ideas to help encourage language:

Labelling

If a child is not using many single words, it is important for them to be able to relate the verbal label with the real object. This is done by:

- following their lead and
- labeling the object they are looking at with a single word

Join in with your child during play. Sit back and watch what s/he does - try to follow their lead and then label objects s/he is looking at. Exaggerate the sounds to grab their attention. If your child imitates you then repeat the word back to him/her so s/he has a good model of how it is said. You can also add a word to extend their language.

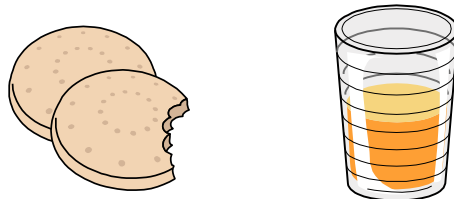
Eye contact

If your child does not give you much eye contact, try bringing an object they are interested in up to your face and then label the word.

Choices

It is important that children are given choices to encourage them to communicate their needs. Try this by holding out two items for your child to see and ask which one s/he wants.

e.g. Adult: 'Do you want biscuit or juice?'



It may be easier to offer your child something desirable and something s/he is unlikely to want. If your child is unable to verbally request the item s/he wants, encourage them to point and then label the word for him/her again.