Speech and Language Therapy Activities
Expressive Language

Naming objects

If you have tried asking your child 'what's this?' with no response, then you need to go back a step. As your child is not using many single words, it is important for them to learn to associate the verbal label with the real object.

How can you help?

You can help your child learn to associate the verbal label with the real object by:

a.) following your child's lead and …….
b.) Labelling the object they are looking at with a single word.

Join in with your child during play. Sit back and watch what they do. Try to follow their lead and then label the objects they are looking at. Exaggerate the sounds to grab their attention. You can label various things about the objects.
e.g. If the child has a cup you can label……..

1. Object name, i.e. 'cup'
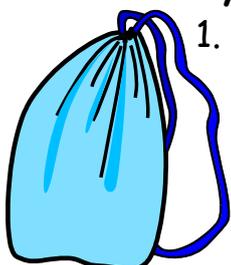2. Object function, i.e. 'drink'.
3. Colour, i.e. 'red'

It is important to keep your language short and simple so your child is more likely to understand and imitate it.
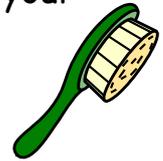
Activities to try:

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, 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. 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 which one they would like.

5. Once you have explored all the items in the bag replace them with 5 new objects and repeat the activity

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.

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 post box. See if they can name the pictures as they post them into the box. If your child does not say the word, say it or them and place it back in the pile so they can have another attempt later on.