Speech and Language Therapy Service

Oxleas **NHS**

NHS Foundation Trust

Word Finding Difficulties at Home

General Advice

- Give your child lots of time to think of a word if he/she is struggling.

- Encourage them to say more about the word they are trying to think of and 'talk around' the word. E.g. 'Can you tell me a bit more about it?' 'What's it for?' 'Where do you find it?' Even if the child can't remember the word, talking about it may give you enough information to guess what they are aiming for.

  E.g. 'It's like when people jump, but only with one leg'.

  You can then help them e.g. 'Do you mean 'hop'?'
  (Ask them again later to remember the word they found tricky eg. 'Can you remember that word for jumping on one leg?' This helps them remember it next time they want to use it.

- Another way you can help your child remember a word (if you know the one they are stuck with) is to say the first sound for them eg. 'h' or the first 2 sounds eg. 'ho'

- Try saying a sentence for them to complete eg. If they are trying to remember aunty Sarah's name, say 'uncle Robert and aunty …'
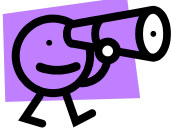
Describing Games

- ***'Who can think of the most furniture/ tools/ buildings/ fruit/ clothes/ countries etc?'***
  Take it in turns to think of something in the category you have chosen. The winner is the last one to be able to think of one. (You could also do this with the categories your child is working on in school)
  eg. 'The Romans' – play with the category 'weapons' or 'Roman buildings'
  eg. 'Healthy eating' – play with 'fruit' or 'vegetables' or 'healthy things'

- **'I spy'**
  Play 'I spy a building with books in', 'I spy some weather that's wet', 'I spy some kitchen equipment that's sharp', 'I spy a fruit that is yellow', 'I spy some clothes with that begin with t' etc.
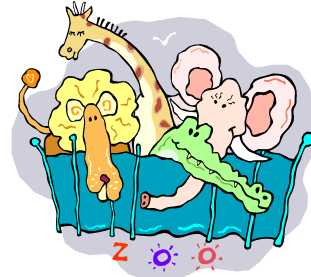
- **'Guess what category'**

  Ask what category certain objects belong to:

  I.e. Apple, pear, banana? – (Fruit)

  Table, chair, bed?- (Furniture)

  Monkey, giraffe, elephant? - (Wild animals)

  You can also do this for a single thing eg. We are going to see aunty yasmin, is she a friend or family? We are going to tesco, what kind of thing is that?'
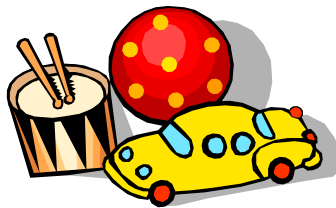
- **'Tidy up'**
  As you pick a toy up, your child can put it in the box or on the shelf if they can tell you what category it comes from eg.   Toy car – (transport or vehicle)
  Ball – (sports equipment or sports object)
  Play station – (computer game or electric item)

  Your child may be more motivated if this is a 'getting out game' eg you can have this if you can tell me the category for it!

Additional activities:

1. Action songs – naming parts of the body (eg. 'One Finger One Thumb Keep Moving', 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes').
2. Draw a person – name the body parts drawn. Leave one out and ask your child which is missing.
3. Feely bag – one person has to describe an object by feel to the other person who must try to name the object.
4. What am I doing? – ask your child to name specific actions (e.g. clapping, hopping, sitting).
5. Listen and name – ask your child to listen to sounds made by specific objects and then name the object (e.g. clock, telephone).

Activities for older children:

1. What is it? – identify household items by their use and name them.
2. Tell me – in pairs, one person describes an everyday object by function and the other person has to name the object.
3. Mime time – one person chooses a picture of an object, then mimes how it is used for the others to guess and name.
4. Picture naming bingo – people take turns to pick up a picture card and match it to their baseboard, the aim is to name the picture to keep it.
5. People who work for us – show your children some object/photo clues and ask them to name the objects and guess who would use them for their job.
6. Where do I live? – match an animal to its home and name both animal and home (pictures).
7. How many things can you draw and name – in a bedroom, shop, garage, farm, football ground etc.