

Vocabulary (words) and word-finding ideas

Get your child to **describe around** the words they come across.

- Support them to think about all the different information they can link to the word, and think about the word in lots of different ways.
- Do this with words they already know, words they find tricky or new words they have learnt.
- You could make a **word map** - have the word in the middle and write lots of things about the word around the outside.
- Make it fun by playing games like **I spy**: "I'm thinking of something you can eat and it's juicy." The other player can guess or ask questions to find out more.

Learning new words: When your child encounters new words, always help them think of all the different information they can link to the word.

You can talk to their teacher to find out what words will come up in class and you can **teach** these before the lesson.

Create a **vocabulary (word) book** with their Teaching Assistant, containing words that they find difficult or new words.

- Choose the words and come up with a definition together.
- Make it fun and practical by including pictures and diagrams (make **word maps**).

Discuss the **meaning of words** and links **between** words. For example, a 'disaster' is something bad that has happened; a similar word is 'catastrophe'.

Use lots of **different ways** when teaching a new word and **repeat** the words **lots of times**.

- See it - use objects, real situations and pictures
- Hear it - point out every day sounds
- Say it - include the word in a sentence
- Read it - read out new words
- Write it - write new words in a sentence.

Please call the Speech and Language Therapy Department on 01925 946 686 if you have any questions.

Encourage your child to **recognise** when they're stuck and independently **use strategies** to resolve this.

- For example, encourage them to **describe around** a word, rather than giving up. *If you know the word, give your child the first sound (e.g. 'p' for 'pig') or something about the meaning (a pink animal) to help them.*
- For older children - show them how to look the word up in a dictionary/thesaurus.
- Always encourage them to ask for help when they're stuck

Always **praise them**, when they independently use strategies to support their word finding/vocabulary difficulties.

Give them lots of **time to speak**, so that they don't feel they need to rush.