

HOW CAN WE HELP? Early Language Skills



Increasing expressive language skills by introducing ‘more’

BUILDING BRICKS

- Build a tower with bricks saying/signing “more” as you reach for each one.
- Encourage the child to build a tower, and say/sign “more” as they reach for each brick.
- Start to keep the bricks out of the child’s reach (e.g. have them in a bag on your lap), and encourage them indicate that they want more before you give them another brick – this may be by looking, reaching pointing, signing or saying the word “more”. Any of these attempts should be accepted and you can say the word again for the child to hear – this will encourage them to imitate the word. Give the child plenty of time to respond and praise all efforts at communication.
- Eventually only give the child the brick when they say/sign the word “more” – the time it takes to reach this stage will be different for every child.

INSET PUZZLES

- Complete an inset puzzle saying/signing “more” as you reach for each piece.
- Encourage the child to play with the puzzle, and say/sign “more” as they reach for each piece.
- Start to keep the pieces out of the child’s reach (e.g. have them in a bag on your lap), and encourage them indicate that they want more before you give them another piece – this may be by looking, reaching pointing, signing or saying the word “more”. Any of these attempts should be accepted and you can say the word again for your child to hear – this will encourage them to imitate the word. Give the child plenty of time to respond and praise all efforts at communication.
- Eventually only give the child the piece when they say/sign the word “more” – the time it takes to reach this stage will be different for every child.

Motivating activities are crucial!

When encouraging the child to use “more”, it is important to use activities that they enjoy and are motivated by. Some other ideas may include:

- Bubbles
- Shape sorters
- Wind-up toys
- Pop-up toys
- Nursery rhymes
- Outdoor equipment such as the roundabout or swing.

Snack

If the child is motivated by food, snack time can be an ideal time to encourage “more”. Give the child only a small amount of food or drink. Then ask “more?” when he/she has finished it.

If you require any further support/advice please contact via the following email

Walsall.slt@nhs.net

In the subject line please state **FAO the Virtual School Speech and Language Therapy Support team** to ensure your message is actioned by the relevant team.