

HOW CAN WE HELP AT HOME? KS1 & KS2



Strategies to Support Expressive Language Skills

Some children have difficulty forming grammatically accurate sentences or using the correct vocabulary. This can affect their ability to get their message across and can lead to frustration.

Strategies to try:

- Give the child plenty of time to say what he/she means
- If the child makes a mistake with the word order or grammar, do not correct him/her (unless instructed to do so by your Speech and Language Therapist as part of a therapy programme). It is better to model the correct way of saying it

Child: *"Girl dog walking"*

Adult: *"Yes, the girl is walking the dog".*

- If the child uses short sentences you can model longer sentences for him/her

Child: *"Boy sit there"*

Adult: *"Yes, the boy is sitting on the chair"*

- Ask open questions to give the child the opportunity to practice his/her language skills. Closed questions only give the child the chance to answer "yes" or "no".

Closed questions
"Did you bang your knee?"
"Did you like painting today?"
"Have you been to the toilet?"

Open questions
"How did that happen?"
"What did you like best?"
"Where did you go?"

- If the child is finding it difficult to put a sentence together, give him/her the start of the sentence to finish off. This is also a good way to avoid asking lots of questions.

Child: *Points to sand*
Adult: *"You're playing in the"*

- If you do not understand what the child is trying to communicate to you say "show me", or try to gather further information with a closed question e.g. "are you talking about something at school or home?"
- Remember, the child will usually need to hear and practice using words or sentences many times before he/she can use them independently

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

Walsall.slt@nhs.net

In the subject line please state **FAO Virtual School SLCN Support** to ensure your message is actioned by the relevant team