

# HOW CAN WE HELP AT HOME? KS1 & KS2



## Supporting Children's Vocabulary Development

Young children can find it difficult to learn and use new words. They need to hear a new word many times in different situations before they fully understand it and learn to use it meaningfully themselves.

If a child is struggling to learn and/or use new words you may notice that they:

- have difficulty understanding simple instructions
- their own sentences do not make sense
- they frequently use words like 'thingy', 'it', 'that' and 'you know'. For example, "Give me the thingy", "Where is it?" instead of "Give me the banana" and "Where is the dice?"
- The child frequently uses the wrong words, e.g. 'table' for 'chair' or 'toothbrush' for 'toothpaste'

The following ideas can be used to support your child's vocabulary development at home. Try to make the activities as fun as possible so that your child is keen to continue with them.

- If you notice that the child has not understood a word, take the opportunity to teach it to them there and then. It will make much more sense for the child to learn new words in real life situations and for the word to be re-used with the child throughout the week. You may want to draw a picture with the child and encourage them to tell other family members about their 'word of the week'.
- Keep a diary that you and the child can stick pictures and photos in and talk about together. Encourage the child to draw and write in it. Arrange for the child to take the diary into school to share during show and tell/ circle time/literacy lessons
- Play guessing games such as 'Guess Who' and 'I Spy' to help develop the child's questioning and spelling skills
- Children love to act out stories. Let the child dress up as favourite characters from TV programmes, DVDs and story books. Encourage the child to act out the story for you and help him/her to remember the storyline, the characters in it, where the story takes place, etc.

If you require any further support/advice please contact via the following email  
[walsall.slt@nhs.net](mailto: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