

Activities to develop 1 key word level understanding

Everyday Objects

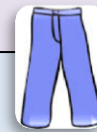


- Place a number of objects that the child is familiar with e.g. cup, spoon, brush on the floor/table. Model all items first so the child knows what they are and then ask the child to give you a named object.
- Place a few familiar objects in a bag. You take one out, saying what it is. Then get the child to take an object from the bag, saying what the object is. If they don't know then you tell them and wait silently to see if they will repeat it.
- During the day talk about familiar objects you use e.g. spoon, cup e.g. at meal times/bath times.
- Object function – this is a little harder and should be left until last. Put out a number of familiar objects. Ask the child to give you the object that you have described by function (use) e.g. “give me the one you drink from”.



Food

- During mealtimes talk about the food the child is eating. If possible sometimes give them a choice e.g. between two types of drink. (hold up both foods, wait for eye contact and name the food as the child looks at you).
- When out shopping talk about the foods that you see. Name them as you put them into trolley.



Clothes

- Name the various clothes as you dress/undress the child.
- Offer the child a choice of different clothes and model these words to the child.
- Get the child to dress a teddy or doll by asking them what to put on next.

Toys

- Use a picture book (or make one of your own) with a variety of toys in it. Look through the book, naming the pictures. Then ask the child to point to a picture once you feel they understand the word.
- As you play with the child, name the toys that you are playing with. Try to use a variety of toys.
- Place a number of toys on one side of the room and ask the child to go and get a named toy.
- You could create opportunities within the environment for the child to request toys (e.g. putting toys on a high shelf/out of reach), wait for the child to indicate that they want the toy before giving it to them.



Body parts

- Talk about and name the different parts of the child's body e.g. eyes, hands, feet. Later (once they understand the words) ask them to point to a named part of their body. Later ask them to point to a named part of your body or doll's body.
- Find a picture of a boy or girl perhaps in a picture book and ask the child to point to different body parts.
- When you are dressing/undressing the child, talk about the different parts of the body as you put the clothes on.

**Animals**

- Point out different animals and name them when you are outside.
- Show the child pictures of animals you have seen and ask them to name them.
- Make animals noises and see if the child can tell you what the animal is.
- Use a set of toy animals and ask the child to find each animal that you ask for.
- You could use a feely bag/animal jigsaw and name it for the child if they are unable to name it themselves.

