

Short Verb Games

Please see ideas below that aim to support your child with his/her understanding and use of verbs (action/doing words):

Game 1 (understanding verbs)

Instructions:

- Please see pages 2 and 3. Place one copy of the verb pictures on the table (use this as the 'board')
- Take the matching set and cut all out to make individual pictures. The adult should hold onto these
- Prompt your child to look and listen, though try not to make it feel like a test
- Hold up 2 of these pictures for your child to see and ask him/her e.g. "point to jumping" / "who is eating?" (clearly emphasising the verb). Give your child time to think and to point to the correct picture
- Once your child has responded, encourage him/her to find the matching verb picture (on the board) and place it on the top. As your child does so, repeat the verb again e.g. "jumping"
- If your child is unable to show you the correct picture when asked, swap for 2 different pictures and ask again e.g. "point to sleeping" / "show me drinking". If your child continues to find this difficult, look through each picture together and say the verbs for him/her.
- You could also have one of your child's favourite character toys to hand with some everyday items. If your child has difficulty understanding the pictures, try demonstrating the actions on the pictures with the toy. Do this by showing your child the picture whilst saying the verb e.g. "sleeping"..... then make the character 'sleep'.
- Repeat this process until all the pictures are finished
- If your child has had difficulty understanding (pointing to the correct verb picture) – he/she is likely to have difficulty using the verb. In this case, adults are advised to keep modelling language.





Game 2 (using verbs and verb phrases)

Instructions:

- Cut out and use a variety of verb pictures from pages 5 , 6 and 7 (at least 10 different ones)
- Put them into a small bag or box
- Take it in turns with your child to choose a picture from the bag or box
- Each say the verb/action
- If your child can use verbs consistently, you could **add** to this by modelling short verb phrases.

Verb phrase examples

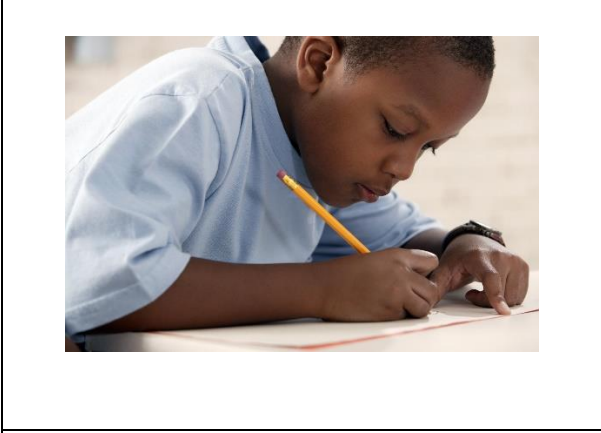
Subject (who)	Verb (what doing)	Object (what)
(S)	(V)	(O)
Boy	reading	
	reading	book
Boy	reading	book

Subject (who)	Verb (what doing)	Object (what)
(S)	(V)	(O)
Girl	eating	
	eating	cake
Girl	eating	cake

If your child says 'drinking', you could say "drinking milk" to form a (VO) phrase or "girl is drinking" to form a (SV) phrase.

The more language your child uses, the more you could add

Once your child is using SV or VO phrases well, you can later expand and model (SVO) sentences such as "the girl is sitting on the chair".







Game 3 'pairs' (using verbs / verb phrases)

Instructions:

- Select a variety of verb pictures from pages 5,6 and 7 (for this game you will be required to photocopy each picture as there must be two of each in order to pair them).
- Place them all face down on the table or floor.
- Take it in turns with your child to turn over 2 pictures at a time.
- As you turn over the pictures, say what is happening
- If the pictures are not the same, turn them back over and try again on your next turn.
- If both pictures match, you keep them!
- The person with the most pairs wins.
- You could make this game easier by reducing the number of pictures to pair up.
- You may need to ask your child "what's happening?" or cue your child in by saying e.g. "the girl is....."
- Again, where possible encourage your child to build longer phrases as their verb vocabulary increases. During this game, you could use your turn to model clear phrases e.g. "The boy is drinking water".

Game 4 'find the hidden pictures' (understanding and using verbs / verb phrases)

This game could be motivating for a child who finds it difficult to sit and focus for a long period of time.

Instructions:

- Use a variety of verb pictures you have cut out (taken from pages 5,6 and 7)
- Hide them around the room for your child to find
- Give your child a bowl to collect them in
- As they are found, ask your child to tell you what is happening in the picture
- When all the pictures are found, place the bowl on the table and ask your child to find you the pictures e.g. "can you find the boy reading?" / "can you find the girl running?". If your child has difficulty, simplify this e.g. "show me reading".

Game 5 (using and actioning verbs)

Instructions:

Please use the template attached to make your cube (page 11)

- Cut out the solid lines around the template.
 - Fold along the dashed lines
 - Assemble into a cube by gluing the sides together along the tabs.
-
- Cut to size 6 of the cartoon verb pictures of choice – page 10 (you could maybe target ones your child needs more support with). Stick the pictures onto each side of the cube
 - Turn take with your child or even in a small group to roll the cube
 - When it lands, the person who rolled, is to say what is happening in the picture.
 - You could make this game more motivating by actioning each of the verbs e.g. if it lands on 'eating', players should pretend to eat / if it lands on 'jumping' players should jump.

Tip - You could also add your own verb pictures for these activities. This could be a separate activity for you and your child. Try looking in magazines or online.



