

Vocabulary difficulties

Description:

Some children have gaps in their knowledge of words. They may present with some of the following behaviours:

- Slow to respond.
- Quick to respond, but give an incorrect answer.
- Say “I don’t know”.
- Use “thingy” a lot.

How can I help at home?

1. Use real objects and model action words.
2. Use words that are appropriate to his level, e.g. car not vehicle.
3. Repeat key words and phrases several times within one situation. E.g. ap-
ples are juicy, the apple is red, I like to eat apples.
4. Use consistent labels– do not switch between words that mean the same e.g. ‘small/little’, or ‘cup/mug’.
5. Talk about the link between words. E.g. apples and pears are fruit, we eat them.

General Activities

Look through a picture book talking about each picture, naming them and occasionally ask your child to find one of the pictures or try and name a picture themselves.

Play lotto by using two copies of a picture or bought picture matching games. Keep one set of pictures whole (to make boards) and cut the other set into individual pictures. Give your child a board, turn over a picture and encourage your child to try to match it to the board once you have named it. You take turns to turn the pictures and name them.

Extend this by keeping the picture hidden on your turn and encourage your child to find the picture on the board without seeing your card.

Turn an old box into a post box and encourage your child to post pictures you name in to the box. Or they can choose a picture, name it and post it.