

Word Finding Difficulties



Description:

Some children have difficulty in recalling/ remembering names of items and pictures. This can restrict their vocabularies and sentences. Children may present with word finding difficulty in one or more of the following ways:

- *Hesitating* to give him/herself more time to think of a word, e.g. “we went to erm....”
- *Substituting specific vocabulary* for general filler words, e.g. “we went to that place....”
- *Talking about the word* rather than using a specific label, e.g. “we went to a place with swings and slides”
- *Changing the sentence* to avoid using the word, e.g. “I played on the swings”
- *Confuse words* with similar meanings, e.g. “I went to the fair” (instead of park)
- *Confuse the way words are said*, e.g. “I played on the round-around”



How can I help at home?

1. Time– where possible give your child plenty of time and reassurance to think of the word, e.g. “there’s no rush....I’m listening”.
2. Descriptions– encourage the child to describe the word, e.g:
 - Does it belong to a group of things e.g. vegetables?
 - What does it do?
 - Where might you find it?
 - Can you describe it?
 - What does it look like?
 - What else can you do like this?
 - What else does it make you think of?
3. Sound cues– encourage your child to think about the following:
 - Is it a long or short word?
 - What sound does it begin with?
 - Can you think of any other sounds in the word?
 - Can you think of a word it rhymes with?
 - Can you clap the number of syllables in the word?