

**Activities to help with  
Speech, Language and  
Communication Difficulties**

**Acacias Community Primary School**



There are lots of simple and fun activities that you can do at home to support the development of your child's speech, language and communication. A lot of the activities outlined below involve your child in taking turns, listening to others and developing their vocabulary. Sharing everyday activities together gives many opportunities for you to model good language by commenting on what you are doing together.

### **Ideas for younger children**

Read and chat about a book together, predicting what might happen in the story.

Watch a TV programme together and talk about it afterwards.

Play games where you need to take turns. You could take turns to add a brick to a tower you're building; to play a simple board game like snakes and ladders or to throw a ball.

Encourage your child to make up their own stories about their toys or use an interesting picture to inspire some ideas. You could join in with the story, adding extra ideas.

Learn some rhymes together. Then recite them with a mistake in for your child to spot, for example, "Incy wincy spider climbing up a tree," where tree is said in place of spout.

Set up a pretend shop using items like toys or tins of food. Invite your child to buy different items while you play the part of the shopkeeper.

Use a puppet to give simple instructions for your child to follow, for example: "Go and touch the chair"; "Jump up and down" and "Touch your head and rub your tummy."

Play the game "I'm going to the seaside". Take it in turns saying "I'm going to the seaside and I'm going to take a ...", adding an item beginning with a chosen letter, for example, "I'm going to the seaside and I'm going to take my scooter", then "I'm going to the seaside and I'm going to take my socks". Keep going until you run out of ideas or someone makes a mistake, then change the letter.

### **Ideas for older children**

Create some sentences together. One of you begins a sentence and the other person finishes it. One person might say, "Chicken is my favourite..." and the other person might add, "flower." Then decide whether it's a silly or sensible sentence.

Similarly say a sentence with a mistake in which the other person has to spot. An example might be "Sheep lay eggs" or "I love eating coal and chips."

Give your child a list of objects to guess the odd one out. An example could be: apple, orange, grapes and cat.

Tell riddles and see if your child can guess the answer, for example, "It's an animal, it has stripes, it's black and white."

Take it in turns to think of a sentence to describe an everyday object but replace the name of the object or action with "jabber jabber". The other person has to guess the object or action. So if the word was "swim", you might say, "My friend Joe can jabber jabber like a fish."

Use rhyming words in sentences to help your child guess an object. So you could say, "It's a part of your body, it rhymes with bed." Head would be the answer.

Play charades with your child. Collect together the names of a selection of films, book characters or everyday items that your child is familiar with, for example, the film The Lion King; Batman; the book character Harry Potter; Spiderman or a tiger. Write each one on a separate piece of paper. Take it in turns to choose a piece of paper, act out the item and guess the charade.

Create a story together, taking it in turns to tell the next part so you build a story together. You could use these sentence starts:

- There was once a...
- Who lived...
- He decided to...
- He met a...
- They went to...
- Then something amazing happened...
- So then they....
- And in the end...