



October 2024

Top tips

As I write this the nights seem to have become very dark very fast, and the insufferable heat of the summer has become mostly a distant memory. I was thinking about embedding speech therapy activities into a school day, and how it can feel like a bridge too far when there are so many other things to do in a day, so here are some times in your day you can support the language of children in your class. Take two minutes and play / comment / or simply listen to a child. Do this 5 times a week, and you have done a solid 10minutes homework.

Getting dressed for PE or playing dress up:

Understanding task:

You give your children instructions on what to put on next; e.g., “Put hat on”, “Take shoes off.”

Practice talking task

Your child gives instructions to you with clothes or dressing-up clothes; e.g., “Put hat on”, “Take shoes off.”

On the way to another room in the school:

Tell stories about the people you see on your travels. Oh look. A teacher walking fast. I think he has lost his pen.’

What do you see?

Encourage the child to answer in three-word phrases; e.g., “boy walking fast”, “coat on the floor” Initially, the child may need lots of examples of what it required, and may need help to answer in this way, but should gradually be encouraged to make up their own stories.

After the weekend:

Describe your day:

Listening activity: tell your children the best thing you did at the weekend. Tell them something you found hard and what you did to get through it. Tell them something you are proud of you achieved in your weekend.

Speaking activity: ask a child the best thing they did today / to tell you something they found hard or tell you something they are proud of. If they don’t answer, use the statement, ‘I wonder...’ then give a forced choice... I wonder if you went to the moon or if you played outside.’

Meal times:

The child and adult take turns to ask each other objects on the table. The phrase, “Give me” remains the same and the object changes; e.g., “give me the salt”, “Give me a spoon”, etc. Later, different names can be introduced instead of “me”, e.g., “give Mom the ketchup”, “Give Ella the water.”

Word games:

Guess what I am thinking about. Pick a word in your head (it can be a picture or someone in the room for ease). Model this, and you can make these questions when children do it. What am I thinking of? It is something you wear. We all wear these. They can be black, or white. They come in pairs. They go with socks. You wear them on your feet. They are....

What is it / where do you find it / what colour is it / does it go with anything else / what letter does it start with / who uses it / when do you see it? Etc etc.

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