

Speech and Language Therapy Activities

Understanding of Language

Understanding two key words

What is it?

A child who understands at two word level can follow an instruction that has two key words, e.g. 'put the **teddy** on the **table**', 'make **teddy** jump'.



How can you help?

The following tips can help to develop your child's understanding at two word level:

- Give your child instructions to follow during play and everyday routines.
- Simplify your language so you are using two key words when talking to your child and describing what they are doing.

Activities to try:

Books

Look through picture books together and label the pictures. Talk about them e.g. 'the **big** dog', 'the **yellow** ball', 'the **cat's** ear' and ask your child to find the picture.



Routines

Give your child instructions to follow during familiar routines, for example, washing and dressing:

E.g. 'wash face'

'find your **trousers** and **socks**'

'put the **jumper** on the **bed**'

'get **daddy's** shoes'

As your child knows the routine they can focus completely on the language you are using and the activity they are doing. At first they may use the context as a clue, but work up to them following the instructions without any objects as clues.

Post Boxes

You will need: Pictures of people carrying out actions (e.g. boy running) and a home made post-box.

Your child will enjoy posting pictures into a home-made post-box. See if they can find and post a picture from a choice where they need to understand 2 key words to find the picture.

E.g. You will need pictures of: boy running, girl running, boy sleeping

Ask your child to find '**boy running**'.

When they find the right picture, get them to post the picture.

Treasure hunt

You will need: Toys / objects

Encourage your child to hide objects for someone else to find by giving them instructions to follow e.g. put the '**hat** under the **chair**', 'put the **ball** under the **bed**'.



Face / Body Parts

You will need: Nothing

Use the nursery rhyme 'head, shoulders, knees and toes' to help your child warm up. Then ask - 'where's your nose?', 'where's your eyes?', 'where's your legs?', 'where's your tummy?' - and so on. Point to your own body parts as you do this and encourage the child to copy you. Give each other instructions like, 'point to **mummy's nose**'. If your child doesn't do this, show them how, then give them another instruction. You could also play this game with siblings.

You will need: 2 toy animals.

Ask your child to find the animal e.g. teddy bear. Ask your child to point to teddy's **nose**, **eyes**, **legs**, **tummy** etc. Next give 2 toy animals to your child e.g. teddy and rabbit - ask 'where is **teddy's nose**?', 'where are **rabbit's eyes**?', 'where are **teddy's legs**?' Alternate the animals.

You will need: Pictures of animals

Ask the child to point to each animal's body parts e.g. 'cow's **nose**', 'cow's **legs**', 'sheep's **eyes**', 'sheep's **tummy**'. You may need to point to the pictures for your child initially, and also encourage them to point to their own 'nose, eyes, legs, tummy' etc.

You will need: Colouring book

Give your child 2 animal pictures and ask them to colour in the animal's body parts e.g. ask - 'colour **doggy's nose**', 'colour the **cat's eyes**' etc

Give your child a picture of a boy and a girl and ask them to colour in the body parts e.g. ask - 'colour **boy's eyes**', 'colour **girl's hair**' etc.

Teddy bear's picnic

You will need: a teddy, a doll, toy food

Ask your child to give the food to different toys / people e.g. ask - 'give **teddy** the **apple**', 'give **doll** a **drink**'.



Feely bag

You will need: big and little toys/objects, a fabric bag

Ask your child to find items in the bag e.g. ask - 'find the **big pig**', 'find the **small cup**'.