

Speech and Language Therapy Activities Understanding of Language

Three Word Level Understanding

What is it?

A child who understands at three word level can follow an instruction that has three key words, e.g. 'put the **car** **under** the **chair**', 'make **big** **doll** **sleep**'.

How can you help?

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

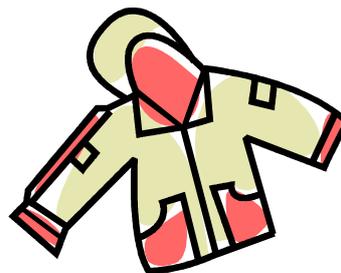
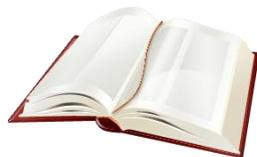
- Give your child instructions to follow during play and everyday routines, adding in different concepts (e.g. size, colour, location).

Activities to try:

Routines

Give your child instructions to follow during familiar routines, for example tidying up:

E.g. 'put **mummy's** **coat** in the **bedroom**'
'put the **red** **book** on the **chair**'



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.

Putting away the shopping

Ask your child to put items in funny places e.g. 'put the **salt** **under** the **sink**', 'put the **apples** and the **crisps** in the **drawer**'.

Post Boxes

You will need: Pictures of people carrying out actions in different places (e.g. **girl sitting on table**) 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/object from a choice where they need to understand 3 key words to find the picture.

E.g. You will need pictures of: girl sitting on table, girl sitting on floor, boy sitting on table, boy sitting on floor, girl kneeling on table, girl kneeling on floor.

Ask your child to find '**girl sitting on table**'.

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, make sure your instructions contain different location words (in, on, under) e.g. put the '**shoe under the bed**', 'put the **teddy on the book**', 'put **doll in the box**'.

Colouring

You will need: Pictures of animals

Ask the child to point to each animal's body parts e.g. '**cow's nose and ears**', '**cow's legs and tail**', '**sheep's eyes and feet**', '**sheep's tummy and legs**'.

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 red**', '**colour the cat's eyes brown**' 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 green**', '**colour girl's hair yellow**' etc.

Feely bag

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

Ask your child to find items in the bag e.g. ask - '**find the big red pencil**', '**find the small blue brush**'.