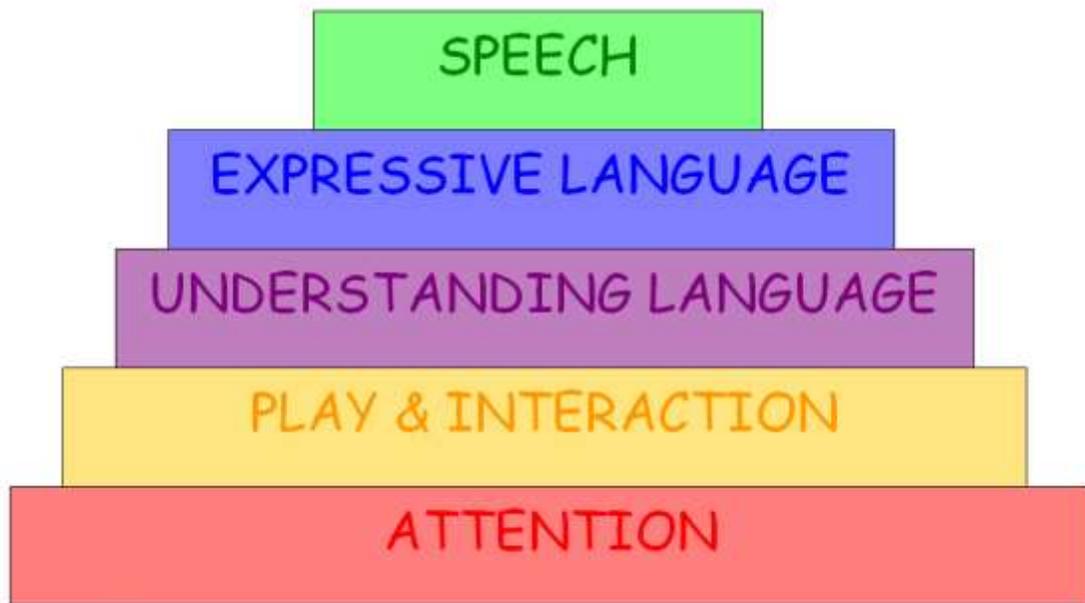


Developing Children's Understanding



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Topic based activities at different word levels

Ourselves

Activities to encourage understanding of single words

Activity 1

You will need:

- Action Songs

How to play:

Take it in turns to find a different body part e.g. find eyes, nose, tummy etc. Action songs are an ideal way of introducing vocabulary related to body parts. Examples are “Head, shoulders, knees and toes”, “Here we go round the mulberry bush”

Activity 2

You will need:

- Teddy or dolly or the child’s favourite toy
- Sponge
- Bowl of water (or you can pretend!)

How to play:

Place the teddy/toy in front of the child, pretending you are going to wash him. Ask the child to “wash hand” or “wash foot” etc. Continue in this way with different body parts

Activity 3

You will need:

- Body jigsaw
- Mr Potato Head

How to play:

Place 2-3 pieces of the jigsaw in front of the child and ask them to find, “ear” or “foot” etc. Place the piece in the jigsaw. Use Mr Potato Head in the same way

Target words to encourage – arm, ear, eye, nose, mouth, head, leg, hand fingers, tummy, foot and toes

*** Remember if the child is having difficulties understanding the words you can use a sign to support the spoken word.**

Ourselves

Activities to encourage understanding of 2 key words

During these activities the child needs to make choices between 2 items.
Where possible these activities should be carried out using real objects

Activity 1

You will need:

- Teddy and dolly (or two of the child's favourite toys)
- Sponge
- Bowl of water (or you can pretend!)

How to play:

Set out items for a play bath time activity.
Ask the child to "wash teddy's hand" or "wash dolly's foot" etc. Continue in this way with different body parts

Activity 2

You will need:

- Body jigsaw
- Mr Potato Head

How to play:

Place 3-4 pieces of the jigsaw in front of the child and ask them to find 2 pieces of the jigsaw.
Use Mr Potato Head in the same way

Activity 3

You will need:

- Washing line and basket, small selection of children's clothing

How to play:

Set out the play activity for a washing game. Place 3-4 items in front of the child and ask them to "put the sock in the basket" or "put the hat on the washing line".

Activity 3

You will need:

- Dressing teddy and dolly (or two of the child's favourite toys)

How to play:

Set out the toys for a dressing game. Place 3-4 items of clothing in front of the child and ask them to "put the sock on teddy" or "put the hat on dolly"

Target words to encourage – arm, ear, eye, nose, mouth, head, leg, hand fingers, tummy, foot and toes, coat, hat, jumper, trousers, socks, skirt, dress, shoes, pants.

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Ourselves

Activities to encourage understanding of 3 key word

These activities can be carried out using real objects, toys or pictures

Activity 1

You will need:

- Washing line and basket, selection of big and little clothes

How to play:

Set out the play activity for a washing game. Place 3-4 big and little items in front of the child and ask them to “put the big sock in the basket” or “put the little hat on the washing line”.

Activity 2

You will need either:

- Teddy/dolly (or two of the child’s favourite toys)
- Big and little teddy and dolly and clothes for the toys

How to play:

If the child is not yet understanding the concepts of big and little you can encourage them to listen for two items eg. “put the jumper and hat on dolly” etc

Place 3-4 items in front of the child and ask them to “put the jumper on big teddy” or “put the trousers on little dolly”

Target words to encourage – arm, ear, eye, nose, mouth, head, leg, hand fingers, tummy, foot and toes, coat, hat, jumper, trousers, socks, skirt, dress, shoes, pants.

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Extension Activities to encourage understanding of 4 key words

Sorting real clothes into a big or little box or a big or little basket. For example,

“put the **trousers** and the **pants** in the **big basket**”

Dressing up clothes in a circle time activity, for example,

“Give some **trousers** to **Oliver** and a **hat** to **Lucy**”

Action Words

Activities to encourage understanding of single words

Activity 1

You will need:

- Action song – here we go round the mulberry bush
- Bag of everyday objects – hair brush, cup, sponge, spoon, ball

How to play:

Sing the song with the child demonstrating the actions with the objects in the bag. When the child is familiar with the song, encourage them to choose the correct object from the bag and carry out the action e.g. this is the way we brush our hair (child chooses brush from the bag and brushes their hair). Continue with other actions in the song

Activity 2

You will need:

- Child's favourite toy character e.g. bob the builder
- Another toy for the adult to model actions

How to play:

Model 3 or 4 actions with your toy e.g. run, walk, jump, sleep. Then tell the child you are going to see if their toy can do the actions e.g. make bob jump, make bob sleep

Target words to encourage: brush, drink, sleep, wash, eat, kick, jump, walk, run, sit

***Remember if the child is having difficulties understanding the words you can use a sign to support the spoken word.**

Action Words

Activities to encourage understanding of two key words

During these activities the child needs to make choices between 2 items.
Where possible these activities should be carried out using real objects

Activity 1

You will need:

- Two of the child's favourite toy characters

How to play:

Put both the toys in front of the child. Ask them to "make bob sit" or "make tigger run". Continue with different actions.

Activity 2

You will need:

- One of the child's favourite toy characters
- Furniture – e.g. chair/table

How to play:

Put the toy in front of the child. Ask them to "make Bob sit on the table" or "make bob jump on the chair". Continue with different actions.

Activity 3

You will need:

- Hoop and mat

How to play:

Model different actions e.g. jump, sit, sleep. Ask the child to carry out an action in one of the places e.g. jump in the hoop, sleep on the mat

Target words to encourage: brush, drink, sleep, wash, eat, kick, jump, walk, run, sit

***Remember if the child is having difficulties understanding the words you can use a sign to support the spoken word.**

Action Words

Activities to encourage understanding of three key words

Activity 1

You will need:

- Two of the child's favourite toy characters
- Furniture – e.g. chair/table

How to play:

Put the toys in front of the child. Ask them to “make Bob sit on the table” or “make Tigger jump on the chair”. Continue with different actions.

Activity 2

You will need:

- Hoop and mat
- Two of the child favourite toy characters

How to play:

Model different actions e.g. jump, sit, sleep. Ask the child to carry out an action with the toy in one of the places e.g. make bob jump in the hoop, make teddy sleep on the mat.

Activity 3

You will need:

- Two toy characters
- Baby brush and sponge

How to play:

Place the toys and brush and sponge in front of the child. The adult can ask the child to e.g. brush teddy's arm, wash bob's nose. Continue in this way with other body parts.

Target words to encourage: sleep, jump, walk, run, sit, wash, brush

***Remember if the child is having difficulties understanding the words you can use a sign to support the spoken word.**

Extension Activities to encourage understanding of 4 key words

Use big and little toy characters in activity 1 and 2. The adult could ask the child to – make **big bob jump** in the **hoop**, make **little teddy sit** on the **table**. You could use positional words (on and under) in activity 1. The adult could ask the child to - make **Bob sit under** the **table**, make **tigger jump under** the **chair**.

Food

Activities to encourage understanding of single words

Where possible these activities should be carried out using real objects

Activity 1

You will need:

- Items of real or play food
- Puppet

How to play:

Place two or three items of food in front of the child and ask them to find one. E.g. "Where's the banana?" Then play at feeding it to the puppet. Continue in this way with the other items of food always making sure that there is a choice of two or three items.

Activity 2

You will need:

- Items of real or play food
- Basket

How to play:

Set out the activity for a Shopping game. Ask the child to "put the banana in the basket" or "put apple in the basket"

Target words to encourage : apple, banana, biscuit, cake, carrot, orange, egg, bread, chocolate and crisps

* Remember if the child is having difficulties understanding the words you can use a sign to support the spoken word.

Food

Activities to encourage understanding of 2 key words

During these activities the child needs to make choices between 2 items. Where possible these activities should be carried out using real objects

Activity 1

You will need:

- Teddy and dolly (or two of the child's favourite toys)
- 2 Plates
- Play/real food

How to play:

Pretend that the toys are having a picnic. Ask the child to "give the apple to dolly" "Give the cake to teddy" etc. Continue in this way with the other items of food.

Activity 2

- 2 boxes, one with a picture of a monkey another with a cat, cut a posting hole where the mouths are.
- Play/real food

How to play:

Introduce the monkey and the cat and say they are very hungry. Ask the child to "give the cat the apple" or "give the monkey the biscuit"

Activity 3

You will need:

- Play/real food
Shopping basket/money/till etc.

How to play:

Take it in turns to "buy" food from the pretend shop. Ask the child to go and buy 2 items of food, for example "put the banana and biscuit in the basket"

Target words to encourage : apple, banana, biscuit, cake, carrot, orange, egg, bread, chocolate and crisps

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Food

Activities to encourage understanding at 3 key words

Activity 1

You will need:

- Teddy and dolly (or two of the child's favourite toys)
- 2 bowls
- 2 plates
- Play/real food

How to play:

Pretend to have a tea party. Place a bowl and plate next to teddy and a bowl and plate next to dolly. Ask the child to "put an apple in teddy's bowl" or "put a cake on dolly's plate".

Activity 2

You will need:

- Play/real food
- Shopping basket/money/till etc.

How to play:

Take it in turns to "buy" food from the pretend shop. Ask the child to put 2-3 items in the basket. (If the child is finding it hard to remember 3 items use signs to support the spoken word)

Activity 3

You will need:

- Big and little play/real food or food pictures
- 3 Animal puppets

How to play:

Ask the child to "feed" the puppets. For example "Give the big biscuit to the elephant" or "give the little apple to the monkey"

Target words to encourage : apple, banana, biscuit, cake, carrot, orange, egg, bread, chocolate and crisps

* Remember if the child is having difficulties understanding the words you can use a sign to support the spoken word.

Extension Activities to encourage understanding of 4 key words

At snack time, give instructions such as "give the **apple** to **Tom** and the **toast** to **Anna**"
During a home corner activity, give instructions such as "put the **sausage** and the **egg** on **Lucy's plate**" or "put the **apple** and **bread** in **Jack's bowl**"

Animals

Activities to encourage understanding of single words

Activity 1

You will need:

- Toy animals
- Toy farm or field
- Old Mac Donald song

How to play:

Put 3 or 4 animals in front of the child. Sing Old Mac Donald and when you reach the animal, pause and wait for the child to find the animal. They can then put it in the farm

Activity 2

You will need:

- Toy animals
- Feelie bag or box
- Farm trailer and field (if you don't have these items, choose two places around the room e.g. sofa or table)

How to play:

Encourage the child to pull an animal out of the bag and name it or make the animal sound. The adult should ask the child to place the animal in one of the two places e.g. in the trailer.

(If your child does not attempt to say the word, model the word or animal noise)

Target words to encourage: dog, cat, cow, sheep, horse, pig, chicken, duck, tractor, trailer, field, barn

*** Remember if the child is having difficulties understanding the words you can use a sign to support the spoken word.**

Animals

Activities to encourage understanding of two key words

During these activities the child needs to make choices between 2 items.
Where possible these activities should be carried out using real objects

Activity 1

You will need:

- Toy animals
- Toy farm

How to play:

Set up a play scene and talk about the different places that the animals can go, for example, in the field or in the barn. Put 3 or 4 animals in front of the child and give them instructions such as “put the horse in the field” “put the cow in the barn”. Continue in this way with the other animals.

Activity 2

You will need:

- Toy animals or animal puppets
- Toy food

How to play:

Explain that the animals are hungry and that you are going to feed them. Give them instructions such as “give the banana to the horse” or “give the apple to the sheep”.

Activity 3

You will need:

- Toy animals

How to play:

Model different actions with the animals, such as walking, running, sleeping and jumping. Then put 3 – 4 animals out in front of the child and give instructions such as “make the pig jump” “make the horse walk” etc.

Target words to encourage: dog, cat, cow, sheep, horse, pig, chicken, duck, tractor, trailer, field, barn

***Remember if the child is having difficulties understanding the words you can use a sign to support the spoken word**

Animals

Activities to encourage understanding of three key words

Activity 1

You will need:

- Big and little toy animals
- Toy farm

How to play:

Set up a play scene and talk about the different places that the animals can go, for example, in the field or in the barn. Put 4 animals in front of the child e.g. big cow, little cow, big horse, little horse.

The adult should ask the child to e.g. put the big cow in the field, put the little cow in the barn. Continue in this way with the other animals.

Activity 2

You will need:

- Animal puppets or soft toy animals
- Toy food

How to play:

Explain that the animals are hungry and that you are going to feed them. The adult should ask the child to e.g. give the apple and banana to the dog, give the sausage and biscuit to the cat. Continue in this way with the other food items.

Activity 3

You will need:

- Toy animals
- Places for the animals to hide such as a table and chair

How to play:

Put 3 – 4 animals out in front of the child. The adult should ask the child to e.g. put the cow on the table, put the dog under the chair. Continue with the other animals.

Target words to encourage: dog, cat, cow, sheep, horse, pig, chicken, duck, tractor, trailer, field, barn

***Remember if the child is having difficulties understanding the words you can use a sign to support the spoken word**

Extension Activities to encourage understanding of 4 key words

Use big and little animals in activity 3. The adult could ask the child to – put the **big cow on the table**, put the **little pig under the chair**. You could also use some action words in activity 3 e.g. make the **cow jump on the table**, make the **pig sleep under the chair**.

Transport

Activities to encourage understanding of single words

Activity 1

You will need:

- Toy vehicles
- Sponge and bowl of water

How to play:

Hide the vehicles around the room. Ask the child to find one of the vehicles, e.g. find the car (your child can then give the vehicle a wash). Continue with other vehicles.

Activity 2

You will need:

- Toy vehicles
- Garage

How to play:

Place 3-4 vehicles in front of the child. The adult should ask the child to find 1 of the vehicles, e.g. 'find the bus' (your child can then put the vehicle somewhere in the garage). Continue with other vehicles.

Action Songs

An ideal opportunity to reinforce new vocabulary can be through action songs, e.g. 'The Wheels on the bus', 'Down by the Station', 'Row, Row, Row your Boat'.

Target words to encourage: car, train, bus, lorry, plane, tractor, bike, boat

***Remember if the child is having difficulties understanding the words you can use a sign to support the spoken word.**

Transport

Activities to encourage understanding of two key words

During these activities the child needs to make choices between 2 items.
Where possible these activities should be carried out using real objects

Activity 1

You will need:

- Choice of 2 large toy vehicles
- Sponge and bowl of water

How to play:

Place the 2 large toy vehicles in front of the child. The adult could ask the child to e.g. 'wash the car wheels', 'wash the bus' lights'. Continue with other parts of the vehicles (e.g. door, window, roof/top)

Activity 2

You will need:

- Selection of at least 2 vehicles
- Toy garage and field
- Road mat

How to play:

Set the garage and field apart from one another, separated by a road mat. Place the 2 vehicles in front of the child. The adult could ask the child to e.g. 'drive the car to the garage', 'drive the tractor to the field'. Continue in this way with the other vehicles.

Target words to encourage: car, train, bus, lorry, plane, tractor, bike, boat, road, track, sea, sky

***Remember if the child is having difficulties understanding the words you can use a sign to support the spoken word.**

Transport

Activities to encourage understanding of three key words

Activity 1

You will need:

- Selection of big and little vehicles
- Sponge and bowl of water

How to play:

Place at least 4 vehicles in front of the child e.g. big bus, little bus, big car, little car. The adult could ask the child to e.g. 'wash the big car's wheels', 'wash the little bus' lights'. Continue with other parts of the vehicles (e.g. door, window, roof/top)

Activity 2

You will need:

- Selection of big and little vehicles
- Toy garage and field
- Road mat

How to play:

Set the garage and field apart from one another, separated by a road mat. Place at least 4 vehicles in front of the child e.g. big bus, little bus, big car, little car. The adult could ask the child to e.g. 'drive the big car to the garage', 'drive the little tractor to the field'. Continue in this way with the other vehicles.

Activity 3

You will need:

- Selection of vehicles
- Car park

How to play:

Place 5 different vehicles in front of the child. The adult could ask the child to find 3 of the vehicles and put them in the car park. E.g. 'find the bus, car and lorry'. The adult should then replace the vehicle selection.

Target words to encourage: car, train, bus, lorry, plane, tractor, bike, boat, road, track, sea, sky

***Remember if the child is having difficulties understanding the words you can use a sign to support the spoken word.**

Extension Activities to encourage understanding of 4 key words

If your child understands colours, these can be incorporated into activity 2 – e.g. 'drive the **big red car** to the **garage**', 'drive the **little blue bus** to the **field**'.