

Category games

Collect together pictures from different categories such as animals, food and furniture. You may want to start with two or three categories. Encourage your child to sort the pictures into the different categories. Discuss each picture and why they belong together in the categories. Help your child to think of as many items as they can in one category e.g. "How many different drinks can we think of?" Help your child to name the category e.g. "Dogs, cats, elephants are all types of" If they find this hard give them choices e.g. "are they fruit or animals?"

Guessing game

Describe a picture to your child so they can guess what it is e.g. a telephone - "it has numbers on, it rings, you talk on it." You may want to talk about;

- Shape, Colour, What you do with it
- What it is made of, Where you find it
- What sound it begins with

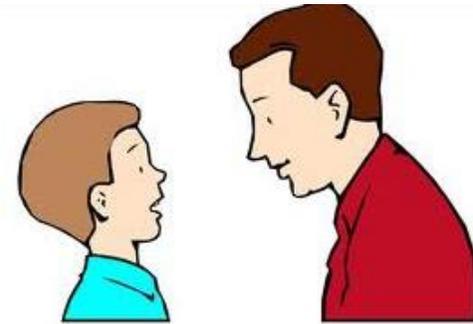
Take turns so that your child describes the picture.

Odd one out

Encourage your child to think about the meanings of words and how they link together. Choose three pictures or objects, two of them related e.g. car, bus and banana. See if your child can identify the odd one out.

Speech and Language Therapy Service

Helping Your Child with Word-Finding Difficulties



What are word-finding difficulties?

Everyone sometimes has difficulty finding the word they want to say, feeling that a word is on the 'tip of your tongue'.

For some children this happens very often and can affect how they communicate.

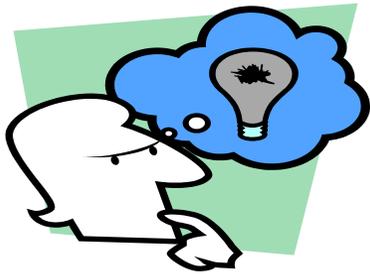
For more information, contact Speech and Language Therapy:
Tel 01535 295652 or

<http://www.airedale-trust.nhs.uk/services/speech-and-language-therapy/>

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What are the signs of word-finding difficulties?

Even though children know what they want to say, it is difficult for them to find the word they want to use. Children may:



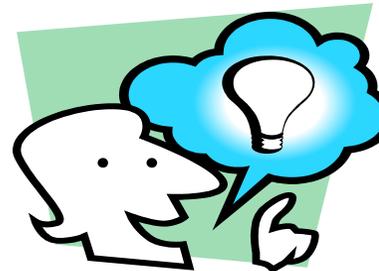
- have long pauses in sentences as they "search" for a word
- use words such as "thing", "that" and "stuff"
- use gestures or act out what they are trying to say
- answer "I don't know" or not reply to a question when they do know
- have difficulty remembering new words

Ways to help your child with word-finding difficulties

- ✓ If your child is having difficulty finding a word, it is not helpful to guess, or to give them the word. It's more useful to think about ways to help them find the word.
- ✓ New words may need lots of repetition to help your child remember them.
- ✓ Encourage your child to describe the word, what it is used for, what it looks like e.g. 'you eat it, it's yellow' (banana).

If they find this difficult, you may need to give them clues, e.g. 'they're made of metal, we use them to cut with...it begins with 'ss' (scissors).

Give the clues one at a time, giving your child time to respond.



Instead of asking questions like "Tell me about..." or "What's this...?" give your child choices such as "Is it a horse or a cow?". In this way your child can show you what he/she knows.

Encourage your child to think about what the word sounds like:

- What sound does it begin with?
- Is it a long or a short word?
- Can we clap out the word e.g. 'dog' = 1 clap, 'ta - ble' = 2 claps
- What rhymes with the word? e.g. 'dog', 'frog', 'log'