

Speech and Language Therapy at Home #8

These weekly newsletters give you information and activities to help support your child's speech and language skills at home.

This week's topic:
Receptive language



Did you know...


Children with language disorder have difficulties with their understanding of language (this is called *receptive language*) and/or their use of language (this is called *expressive language*).


Receptive language difficulties include difficulties with **language processing** and **understanding spoken language**. They can find it tricky to understand longer, complex sentences and follow instructions.




There are lots of things you can do to support your child's receptive language.

Ways to support receptive language:

1) **Use short, simple sentences** 
Avoid using really tricky words and keep sentences short. This can help children experience success with following instructions and remembering.

2) **Show, don't just tell** 
Lots of children with verbal memory difficulties have strengths in visual or 'picture' intelligence. Show your child what to do, and give them a written list alongside verbal instructions when doing activities. Pictures are always helpful!

3) **Encourage use of strategies** 
If your child is confused, you can support them to say e.g.:

- "I don't remember what you said."
- "Can you say it again?"
- "Can you write it down?"
- "Can you say it a different way?"

If your child finds it tricky to ask for help, model using these phrases yourself. It shows them that it is OK not to know or remember first time. It shows them that everyone needs help sometimes.

Please contact your child's speech and language therapist with any questions.