



Speech and Language Therapy Support Activities – Year 3 and 4

In year 3 and 4, we are working together to support children's speech, language and communication skills. At the beginning of Key Stage 2 children have really started to be able to be selective about what they need to listen to and ask for clarification if they are unsure what something means. They are being supported to understand more about multiple meanings of words and are also becoming better at staying on topic and listening to another person's ideas. You may notice that they are now often using other people's ways of talking and their friends are very influential.

We know that with children being at home at the moment, there feels this huge pressure to get them to complete "work", but there are so many opportunities to support your child's language skills into fun and motivating games and activities. Here are just a few ways that you can use items you have readily at home and everyday opportunities to support your child with three of the areas.

Target Area	Language Activities / Opportunities	Websites that Support Speech and Language
<p>Understanding multiple meanings of words.</p>	<p>There are lots of words in our language that have more than one meaning which can be really confusing for children. At this age, they can probably think of a few on their own such as "bat" (the animal and the items used to hit a ball) However, some other words are not so easy. As a starter activity, you could see how many you could come up with. Fold a sheet of paper in half. Then on each side, let them illustrate the meaning of the word. For example with the word sea/see, they will draw water on the left side of the paper and someone looking on the other side. Sharing a book or watching a film together is then a great way to talk about what words mean. Encourage your child to question words that they may not have heard before. E.g. "sensitive" You can be feeling a bit sensitive which means you might cry easily or get angry or you can be sensitive to certain foods because they make you ill.</p>	<p>If you are looking for some more traditional resources and activities to support speech and language, these are some of our favourites. Don't forget to check out our Apps list too.</p> <p>https://www.storyboardthat.com/storyboard-creator This is a really lovely website that allows children to set up stories with characters and scenes.</p>
<p>Planning and negotiating within an activity</p>	<p>Den Building / Building an Obstacle Course / Lego Models</p> <p>All of these projects can lend themselves really nicely to negotiating and planning. The key to this kind of activity is doing this together as a team. If you have younger (or older) children in the family, this can be a task that you do all together. There does not to be a leader to the task, but rather people sharing their ideas, or taking in turns to make decisions. Encourage your child to explain why they have chosen to do things a particular way as this justification is really important for their communication skills. Take photos of the different stages, so that they can share this with family or friends at a later date or perhaps by a video call. If the taking turns bit is harder for a younger child, you can always use a talking stick. Whoever has the talking stick is the only one to be talking at that time.</p>	<p>The Sock Puppets App allows your child to choose a character and tape 30 seconds of audio. You could use this to get them to tell you about something they have learned that day. (Only available on Apple)</p>
<p>Asking questions that are relevant to the topic of conversation.</p>	<p>Conversation Questions</p> <p>Use family conversations as a great way to encourage your child to stay on topic. Often, in the middle of a conversation, your child may suddenly ask you about something completely different to what you are talking about. Say something like, "I am talking to your brother about what we are having for dinner at the moment, I'll talk to you about your boat in a minute"</p>	<p>https://www.hearbuilder.com/the-collection/#: The Following Directions and Auditory Memory higher levels on this website are great for listening skills and developing understanding of more complex sentences. This is FREE to join at the moment.</p>

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