



## Speech and Language Therapy Support Activities – Year 1

In year 1, we are working together to support children's speech, language and communication skills. At this age our children are working on being able to listen to and understand classroom instructions whilst they are busy completing a task, describing what things mean, re-telling a favourite story or sharing news, and developing their use of descriptive words. This is the time where their sentences are getting longer and they are putting lots of ideas together.

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 household items and everyday opportunities to support your child with three of the areas.

Target Area	Language Activities / Opportunities	Websites that Support Speech and Language
<p><b>Understanding how things can be grouped into categories and knowing the category names.</b></p> <p><b>Being able to answer more complex questions</b></p> <p><b>Being able to say tricky or new words</b></p>	<p><b>What's in the bag?</b> Fill a bag with some things around the house. Take in turns describing an item without the other person seeing to see if they can guess what it is.</p> <p><b>Categories Collage</b> Make a collage with pictures from a catalogue, sorting them into furniture, clothes, toys, food</p> <p><b>How Many Ways</b> Choose two pictures from an old catalogue and stick them on a piece of paper. Take in turns to think of all the things that are similar about them (and then all of the things that are different)</p> <p><b>Story Time</b> Use story time as a way to work on skills of prediction and problem solving. At this age, children are not always able to answer more tricky open ended questions such as "how" and "why". Start with easier question words such as "who, where, what" E.g. Who is eating? Where does the cow live" Then move onto prediction. "What do you think will happen to the boy?". "What is the hen going to do?" You can ask your child how they think the character may be feeling, or what they might be saying. The highest level of questioning is those "why" and "how" questions. E.g. "Why did the boy run home?" "Why was Jack's Mum angry?" "How do you think the gingerbread man will get away?"</p> <p><b>Baking/Cooking:</b> Try setting up an activity together in the kitchen where you can make something, like some muffins or cakes. Ask questions such as "what do we need to do next?" Can you remember what we did first? Why do we have to be careful with the oven?"</p> <p><b>Clap the Word</b> Children at this age often get stuck with words such as "spaghetti" as they are long. Practice segmenting the word into it's clap to help them get their mouth around it. E.g. "spa..ghe..tti"</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><a href="http://www.cookie.com">www.cookie.com</a> – Try out the games sections to work on vocabulary. There is a lovely activity for finding transport and a jigsaw safari for working on animal names. There are also lots of great phonic based activities that will support your child's sounds and literacy.</p> <p><a href="https://www.hearbuilder.com/the-collection/#">https://www.hearbuilder.com/the-collection/#</a>: This website is offering free access at the moment and there is no opt out or need to add payment details. Set up a home account for lots of activities on listening, memory and comprehension. This has lovely graphics and is really interactive.</p> <p><a href="https://pbskids.org/sesame/">https://pbskids.org/sesame/</a> The sesame street website has lots of great activities. The season spinner, story book builder and rhyme train are particularly good. There are also lots of games that support phonics and sound work.</p>

