



## Speech and Language Therapy Support Activities – Year 2

In year 2, we are working together to support children's speech, language and communication skills. At this age our children's communication skills are really blossoming and they are adding to their vocabulary every day. They are being supported to be confident in starting and taking part in individual and group conversations and joining in and organising games with their friends. They can also pretend to be someone else. This is the stage where they really begin to think about what they are saying and what words to use to discuss their ideas and get what they want.

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>Explaining more complicated ideas and rules.</b></p> <p><b>Being able to think about what words they need to describe something clearly</b></p> <p><b>Asking what words mean if they do not know.</b></p>	<p><b>Playing Games:</b> Use board games and family games as a great way to work on those skills in explaining. Particularly, if there is a new game, or a game you have not played in a while, encourage your child to tell you the rules and what you need to do. Listen carefully to all of the information and ask questions to encourage them to really explain clearly. You could even get them to teach you how to play a game on the X-box / PlayStation.</p> <p><b>Barrier Games</b> Barrier games are a great way to help your child to explain exactly what you need to do. Get two pieces of plain paper and put some books between you to make a barrier. Fold your paper in half and then quarters to make four squares (you can do six if this is too easy). Then take it in turns to tell the other person what to draw. Keep the drawings simple. For example, draw a sun in the top left square. This is a great way to work on left and right too, which children at this age often struggle with. You can always put a "L" and "R" at the top of the paper to help. Compare your pictures at the end and check if you got the same.</p> <p><b>Blind Fold Find</b> Use a scarf as a blindfold and then go and hide an item in one of the rooms. This needs to be fairly big, perhaps a teddy or something that size. Start in one room of the home and then give your child instructions of where the item is with directional language. E.g. Go forward 3 steps. Turn right....go forward 5 steps... You can do this with all of the family, taking in turns to give the instructions and to be blindfolded.</p> <p><b>Silly Words:</b> Often in sessions, when I work with children, I put silly words into the conversation or words that I know the child does not know to encourage them to ask what things mean. Questions are really vital for a child and they need to feel really confident about saying when they do not understand, so really praising your child for asking is really helpful.</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="https://www.storyboardthat.com/storyboard-creator">https://www.storyboardthat.com/storyboard-creator</a> This is a really lovely website that allows children to set up stories with characters and scenes.</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>