

Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service

Following Instructions - 1 Key Word

A child has single word level understanding when they are able to follow your instruction to select (find/point to) the item you named, from a choice of two or more, when you give no extra clues.

It's important to remember that these activities can be carried out within your normal daily activities and so they can be done every day without taking up lots of time!

The following activities will give your child the opportunity to practise following spoken instructions that contain one key word.

Activities -

- **Post box:** Use a posting box and 6 pictures of everyday objects. These could be from games such as pairs/lotto, photos etc. Lay the pictures out on the table in front of the child. Ask the child to: 'find the car' 'find the book' etc.
- **Colouring Game:** Use pictures of e.g. a doll and a teddy and have some crayons. Use one of the pictures and ask the child to colour: 'eyes' 'foot' etc.
- **Sticker Game:** Collect 2 soft toys (e.g. a teddy and a dolly), plus some stickers. Use one of the soft toys and ask the child to put a sticker on: 'foot' 'tummy' etc.
- **Tea Party:** With a selection of toy food ask the child to give you the: 'apple' 'cake' etc.
- **Dressing Teddy:** use pictures of a teddy and clothes and ask the child to: 'give him the jump-er' 'give him the socks' etc.

Don't forget there are lots of times in the day when your child can practice e.g. when looking at books together 'Where's the sun?'; Getting dressed in the morning 'get your socks', having a bath 'wash your tummy' etc.

Whilst playing these games, you can also give your child an opportunity to say what they want you to do, or to describe what they are doing, so they get practice at using these small sentences themselves.