

Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service

Following Instructions - 3 Key Words

Once your child is confident at following two word level instructions you can then try moving on to three word level instructions. This is where a child has to understand three key pieces within an instruction in order to carry it out. For example: "Put teddy in the big box" where alternatives are offered for the underlined words.

Activities -

- **Feeding Animals:** Use animal pictures or soft toys and everyday objects. Place the items in front of the child. Ask the child to: 'Give pencil and car to cat' 'Give book and apple to duck' etc.
- **Can you find:** Have a selection of toys, objects or pictures in front of your child. Ask the child to: 'Find the pen, horse and bottle' 'give me the car, dog and teddy' etc.
- **Action Game:** Use 2 or 3 soft toys (e.g. a teddy and a dolly). Ask the child to make the toys carry out some actions on either a chair/table/box: 'teddy jump on table' 'dolly sit on box' etc.
- **Washing Game:** Use 2 or 3 soft toys (e.g. a teddy and a dolly), plus a sponge, small towel and a brush. Ask the child to: 'wash dolly's face' 'brush teddy's ear' etc.
- **Sticker Game:** Use big and little soft toys (e.g. a big and a little teddy and dolly), plus some stickers. Ask the child: 'put a sticker on big teddy's face' 'put a sticker on little dolly's tummy' etc.
- **Tea Party:** Have a 'tea party' with 2 toys and a selection of food. Each toy has a cup and a plate. Ask the child to: 'put the apple on dolly's plate' 'put the cake on teddy's cup' 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.