

Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service

Teaching New Words

Some children will struggle to use language. They will need additional support to learn new words which they can then use in their everyday talking.

Strategies for Teaching New Words -

- Write down 5 or 6 key words to target in that session/week
- **Pre-teach** words to the child where possible before introducing them to the whole class.
- Use the '**Early Interventions**' online resource. Click on the 'Talking and expressive language' box and then click on 'vocabulary development'. The 'Language wheels' give you ideas of vocabulary to target in different areas of learning.
- **Topic webs** (or mind maps) can be used to show a child how words link together. Make sure you use picture/symbols to help the child remember the words. You can gradually add to the topic web over time and come back to 'revise' old words before adding new ones.
- **Teaching describing words** (concept words) e.g. hard, soft, under, in front, big, little
 - Teach one concept at a time e.g. heavy and 'not heavy' rather than heavy and light.
 - Use multi-sensory activities so that a child learns by feeling, doing and experiencing e.g. for 'under' children learn the concept of 'under' by going 'under' things themselves.
 - Repeat words in many different situations e.g. 'heavy' can be experienced by filling containers and holding them, moving furniture etc. before the child realises a picture of a big metal object is heavy.