

## Word Games to Support Language Development

All children will benefit from playing games to support their language development. This helps them to hear words repeatedly and gives them opportunities to remember and use the words themselves. Games which we know children enjoy include -

- **Shopping Game: each child says** "I went shopping and I bought a .....(each person playing the game adds a new word for all to remember). You can base it on different themes e.g. holiday words, say "I went on holiday and I saw..... etc.).
- **Word Association:** Each person says a word which is linked to the word said before (e.g. cup, .... Others add word such as "spoon, fork").
- **Groups /Categories:** Make cards with group /category names on, e.g. sports, clothes. Roll a dice, the child says that number of words from the chosen group /category.
- **Snap:** Use picture cards and turn them over one by one. The child says 'snap' if they can say how the words are linked in some way, e.g. coat, socks = things to wear.
- **Rhythm round:** Choose a group/category, e.g. 'things to eat' then everyone does clap, clap, tap, tap (on knees) and a child volunteers a word to fit in that group/category. Continue until every child has thought of a word and then choose a new group/ category.
- **Feely bags:** Put some objects in a bag for the child to pull out and describe but without saying its actual name. The other players have to guess the object from the description, e.g. It is white, woolly and says "Baa" = sheep.
- **20 questions:** The child asks 20 questions about a word which another player is thinking about and tries to guess it. (Questions can be about its size, colour, what group/ category it belongs to, what it is used for etc.). To make it simpler, the word to guess can be selected from a choice of objects or pictures which have been talked about first.