

Word Learning and Word Finding Skills

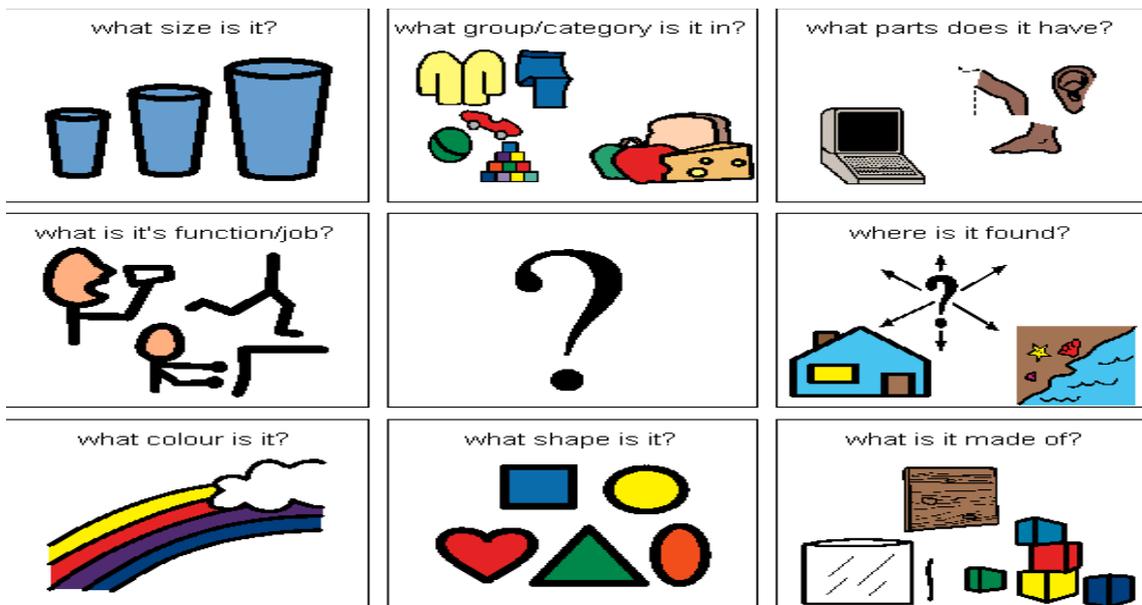
Top Tips for Word-Learning and Word-Finding Skills

Many children experience what are called word finding difficulties. This is when the child finds it tricky to access the word they want to use. Adults also experience word finding and describe it as having a word "at the tip of their tongue".

When your child is experiencing a word finding difficulty try to give him/her **time** to think and respond. **Wait** and give them the time they need to finish what they are saying!

You could also encourage your child to **'talk around'** the word. E. g 'Can you tell me a little bit more about it?' 'What's it for?' 'Where do you find it?'

These describing cue cards may be useful for your child to refer to. You could put these in a central location in the home such as the fridge!



Activities

1. **Play "rapid naming from categories"**: Have your child list as many things as possible from a certain category. For example, have your child list as many foods as he/she can or as many clothes. You could write down how many he thought of each time so he can see the progress he/she makes as he does this activity more and more.

- Please see resources 1 for sample materials for this activity

2. **Play "providing a word from a definition"**: Define a word for your child and see if he can guess what it is. For example, you could say "it's a red fruit that is juice and sweet and sometimes comes in green and yellow" and see how long or how many cues it takes for your child to guess apple. You can switch this around and have your child define a word for you as well.

Games such as **Guess Who** and **Headbanz** are a great way to practice this skill!



The apps **HEADS Up** and **Charades** which can be downloaded are also a fun and interactive way to develop word finding skills!



3. **Play list things needed to complete a task**: Tell your child the name of a task and ask her to tell you all of the things she would need to complete that task. For example, if the task is swimming, your child could say "goggles, swimsuit, floaties, bag, pool toys, towel".

- Please see resources 2 for sample materials for this activity

4. **Play "name the category"**: Give your child an example of some categories. E. g. food, toys and clothes. Then say that you are going to name some words and your child has to think of the category that they best belong to e.g., red, blue, green and pink are all colours; lions, tigers, bears are all animals.

- Please see resources 3 for sample materials for this activity

1. RAPID NAMING ACTIVITY RESOURCES



Avengers Characters
Avengers Movies



Disney Characters
Disney Movies



Sports
Sports stars
GAA teams
Premier League teams



Foods
Vegetables
Drinks
Things you could eat. . . E. g for breakfast, on a picnic or at a birthday party etc



Counties in Ireland



Countries
Languages

2. THINGS NEEDED TO COMPLETE A TASK



Swimming Pool



School



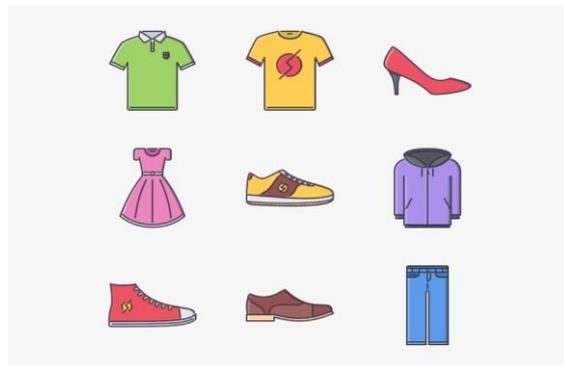
Training/after school activity – football, GAA, basketball etc



Tasks such as – making a sandwich, making breakfast, making a smoothie etc



The beach



Tasks such as - getting ready for bed, getting dressed in the morning etc

3. NAME THE CATEGORY

- Carrots, broccoli and potatoes are all _____ (vegetables)
- Dogs, cats and goldfish are all _____ (pets)
- Tees shirts trousers and skirts are all _____ (clothes)
- Porridge, coco pops and Cheerios are all _____ (cereals)
- Milk, water and juice are all _____ (drinks)
- Pink, yellow and green are all _____ (colours)
- Bananas, oranges and grapes are all _____ (fruit)
- Hermione, Harry and Dumbledore are all _____ (Harry Potter characters)
- Mine Craft, Fortnight and Mario Kart are all _____ (video games)
- Circle, square and rectangle are all _____ (shapes)
- Kilkenny, Dublin and Cork are all _____ (counties)
- America, Ireland and Australia are all _____ (countries)
- Football, basketball and tennis are all _____ (sports)
- Captain America, Captain Marvel and Iron Man are all _____ (superheroes)
- Ana, Elsa and Olaf are all _____ (Frozen characters)

Time to get creative - can you make up some of your own and see if your family can guess the category?



