

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

4 Key Word Understanding

General Tips:

- You will need to demonstrate to the child what you want them to do.
- Make sure you don't give the child extra clues, for instance don't point or look at the named object.
- Only help the child if they are really stuck!
- The child may look towards the picture / object but not reach for it, accept this as their response and offer them the chosen item.
- Always use items that your child knows the name of.
- Praise the child and make it fun!

What's it all about?

The child is learning to respond correctly to sentences with four key words.

4 Key Words - Example

If you have a big banana, little banana, big apple, little apple, red plate, blue plate, red book, blue book and say: "Put the big banana on the blue plate", then the child has to make 4 choices:

1. big or little 2. banana or apple 3. plate or book 4. red or blue

The child has to respond to the key words 'big', 'banana', 'blue' and 'plate'.

Try These Activities...

1. You will need a big and little doll, a big and little teddy and a sponge or flannel. You can play at washing the big or little teddy or doll. Ask the child to carry out simple instructions such as "Wash big dolly's face and foot" or "Wash little teddy's hand and leg"

2. You will need: 2 toys (e.g. dolly, teddy, action figure) and 2 items of furniture (e.g. bed, chair, table) You can pretend to make the dolls do different actions, e.g. sleep, sit, stand, walk, dance etc on the furniture. For example, ask the child to "Make dolly dance under the chair" or "Make teddy jump on the table"

3. You will need a big and little dolly (or action figure), a big and little teddy, a hair-brush, toothbrush, sponge and shampoo bottle. Ask the child to carry out different actions such as "Wash big teddy's feet", "Brush little dolly's teeth", "Wash big dolly's hair" or "Wash little teddy's face".

4. When setting the table let the child help you. Put all the crockery on the table in the right places and then give the child a pile of cutlery. Give the child instructions where they have to understand four words, for example, "Put a spoon in daddy's cup" or "Put a knife under mummy's plate", etc.

5. You will need: 2 toys (e.g. dolly, teddy, action figure), 2 cups, 2 plates, big and little knives, forks and spoons. Give the doll and teddy a plate and cup each and then ask the child, for example, "Put the big fork in dolly's cup" or "Put the little spoon on teddy's plate" OR if you just have a teddy and one of each item, you could change who does the action. Ask the child, for example, to "You put the knife under the cup" or "Teddy put the fork on the plate".

6. You will need a box and a bag, a big and a little car, and a big and little brick. Ask the child to put an object in or under one of the containers e.g. "Put the big car under the box" or "Put the little brick in the bag"

7. You will need big and little toys (e.g. car, doll, ball, brick, teddy) and 2 items of furniture (e.g. bed, chair, table) Ask the child to put an object on or under one of the items of furniture e.g. "Put the big car under the table" or "Put the little ball on the chair."

8. You will need: big and little cars of at least 2 colours big and little lorries of the same colours as the cars 2 boxes to represent a garage and a car park. While playing with the cars give the child instructions e.g. "Put the big red lorry in the garage" or "Put the little yellow car in the car park".

9. You will need: cars and lorries, as above a box which represents a garage. You may also need a small sponge / cloth. While playing with the child, give instructions e.g. "Put petrol in the little blue car" or "Wash the big green lorry" and so on.

10. You will need: big and little dolly (or action figure) big and little teddy, car and a lorry (or bus or tractor). Help the child to play with these toys and, while doing so, give instructions such as "Make big teddy drive the car" or "Make little dolly push the lorry" or "Make big dolly wash the car".

11. You will need: big and little dolly (or action figure) big and little teddy, little cup, plate and spoon big cup, plate and spoon. Ask the child to carry out a simple instruction such as "Give the big spoon to big dolly" or "Give the little cup to little teddy"

12. You will need some toys, e.g. teddy, ball, car or a brick. Play a game of Hide and Seek with the child and one other person. Whisper to the child where to put the toy, for example "Put the brick under the big chair" or "Put the ball on the bin in the kitchen"

13. In everyday activities add some 4 key word instructions into your routine e.g. "Give the banana, apple and biscuit to daddy" or "Put your hat, shoes and coat on the stairs". Make sure you don't give the child extra clues, for instance don't point or look at the named object.

14. When playing with the child and their toys add some 4 key word instructions into your game e.g. "Give the apple, cup and car to the cat", "Put the hat, scarf and coat on teddy" or "Put the spoon and knife under the plate".