

## How to...

### Help a child to develop their vocabulary for everyday words.

- When a child is looking at something, holding something, or pointing at something, tell them what it is e.g. **“book!”**
- Share books together – name the pictures as you point to them
- Focus on the child’s interests – if you talk about what interests the child they are more likely to learn new words. If they enjoy playing with cars, you can model words like **“car”, “fast”, “beep”, “stuck”**
- Children need to hear new words lots of times before they will start to use them – repeat the same words in lots of situations e.g. you might name **“duck”** when looking at a book about animals, and then name **“duck”** again when you feed them at the duck pond. This helps the child to build up a picture of what a duck is
- Use actions alongside words e.g. if you say **“sleep”**, put your hands under your head to mime sleeping. If you say **“drink”**, you might gesture drinking
- Sing nursery rhymes together – rhymes with actions help children to connect new words with their meanings, and help the child to remember words
- Use words for actions as well as for things e.g. **“washing”, “sleeping”, “jumping”** – use these words alongside the actions to help the child to link the word with its meaning
- Give the child choices e.g. you might say **“milk or juice?”** - hold the items out as you say the words, so that they can link each word with the meaning

Additional information:

For further information please contact Paediatric.services@acecic.nhs.uk or call ACE paediatric services on 01206 588100

Additional resources:

<https://www.talkingpoint.org.uk>

<https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/wellcomm/>

Nov 19