

# Primary Talk Homework

You can support your child's speech, language and communication development anytime and anywhere. Here are some ideas to get you started.

## Describing I spy

- Try playing I spy, but with more of a language focus.
  - Instead of saying what the object begins with, describe the object.
- E.g. "I spy something we eat, it can be red or green, it's round and it's a fruit... it's an... apple."
- You can take turns in this game so that you all have the chance to be the describer and the guesser.



## Talking books

- Talk about the book that your child is reading.
- Rather than just reading the words, talk about the story; what's happening, who the characters are, what they're doing, feelings about the characters etc.
- This is a really good way to make sure that your child understands what they are reading.



## Questions, questions...

- Your child should be developing their understanding of 'how' and 'why' questions, so these are great questions to use in a conversation.
- Maybe you could talk about something you're watching on TV, or something that happened during their day?
- Asking about 'why' and 'how' things happened are a great way to keep the conversation going and support your child with using their language to problem solve.



## Family memories

- Have a look at an old family picture or a favourite object.
- You could ask everyone in the family to choose their favourite picture or object and talk about it.
- Tell your child the story around an old picture – children often love to hear about when their parents were younger.
- Encourage your child to ask questions about the picture or the story to get a conversation going.



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## Trust walk

- This is a game that really relies on good communication skills.
- Use a blindfold (a scarf or a tie will do) and do a 'trust walk', where your child has to direct you to a specific place while you're blindfolded – can they do it without any crashes?!
- You can swap roles with this game too, so that your child has to wear the blindfold and listen carefully to your instructions.



## Barrier Games

- Barrier games rely on clear communication.
- Try sitting back to back with your child and describing how to build a tower or how to draw something.
- The aim of this game is that you both have the same tower or picture when you turn around, so it really helps with developing describing skills for the talker and clarifying and understanding skills for the listener.



## Word Associations

- Play a word association game: one player says a word and then the next player needs to say a word that is linked to the word before it (e.g. computer > keyboard > piano > drum...).
- See how many turns you have before a player can't think of a word...it gets harder and harder the longer it goes on!

## Silly stories

- Get as many family members together as possible for this game.
- Take turns to say a sentence each to create a story...see what weird and wonderful stories you end up with.

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## Family Quiz

- Use the questions in the next box for a family quiz.
- These questions are great conversation starters—encourage your child to ask you the questions and to ask further questions based on the answers you give.
- You can either use them as direct questions or play a game where other members of the family need to guess what the answer is before seeing if it's right.

## Questions

- What was your favourite childhood toy/game?
- Who was your best friend when you were really young?
- Who was your best friend as a teenager – why?
- Who is your favourite pop star/band? Why do you like them?
- What was the first piece of music you bought - was it a record, tape, CD, download...?
- What's your favourite sport? Do you prefer playing or watching it?
- What's your favourite film and why?
- Can you think of a really funny or happy memory?
- What's your favourite food?
- If you were an animal, what kind of animal would you be and why?
- If you could choose to visit any country in the world where would you go?
- Tell me something you think I won't know about you?
- When and where were you born?
- If you won the lottery, what would be the first thing that you'd do with the money?
- If you could take one thing to a desert island, what would it be and why?

