



Ideas for developing Speaking, Listening and Reading at home.

These ideas can be built upon and adapted as children progress through the school.

Speaking and Listening

- Role play with puppets/dolls and play lots of games.
- Listening games- describe what they can hear, smell, see etc.
- Talk about their day ask them questions so they give more detail.
- Listen/talk about stories/events in the news or family situation.
- Retell stories the children have read or stories you have shared together.



On a car journey

Ask the children to describe what they can see in detail.

Play I spy

Rhyming word games

Start a rhyme string off e.g. cat, hat, bat, sat and then try and put into sentences.

Word games

Think of a word beginning with...

How many animals can you think of beginning with b-----

Make alliteration sentences I see a big blue buzzy bumble bee.

Word association string games e.g. pencil-paper, boat-sea, car-drive.

Join

Provide two short, simple sentences. The aim of the game is for the children to join them to make one sentence. They will need to use some form of connective and it can be useful to suggest a way of joining them. For instance:

The camel ate the cake

The cake was full of dates.

You could ask the children to join the two sentences above using the word 'which':

The camel ate the cake, which was full of dates.

Drop in

Provide a simple sentence and ask the children to 'drop in' a something extra, e.g. adjectives, adverb, a phrase or clause. Be wary of children dropping in too much! Of course - you could add to a sentence by attaching a bit either end as well.

Bertie dug a hole.

Might become:

Bertie dug a deep hole.

Bertie rapidly dug a hole.

Bertie, the farmer's dog, dug a hole.

Bertie, hoping he would soon see a kangaroo, dug a hole.



In the City of Rome

An old game for long car journeys. It is ideal for building descriptions of settings. Think of a place and identify one thing that you can see (a park bench). Then say, 'in the city of Rome is a park bench'. The next person has to repeat what you have said and add in something else, e.g. 'In the city of Rome is a park bench and under the bench is a sleeping dog.' A list of prepositions helps. Then ask the child to add something else they can see or hear and keep going till you've both run out of ideas. Instead of 'in the city of Rome', play the game using the setting in their story, e.g. 'in the haunted house'. Show children how to sketch the scene and annotate, adding in similes. Then practice turning the scenes into mini paragraphs.



Inventing Metaphors

First of all, identify something that you want to create a metaphor around - for instance - the stars. Now think of something that is like the subject or something to do with the subject - they shine, glitter, are like diamonds, like jewels, like fiery eyes. Now use an idea to make a metaphor, remembering not to use the word 'like', e.g.

The stars are shiny glitter. The stars tin tacked to the night. The diamond stars shine. The jewelled stars. The fiery stars eyed the world.

Playful

The old magic box game is great fun and never ever fails. All you have to do is imagine what might be in there. You could also imagine where an old magic carpet may take you or a magic door. Take it in turns to give a description. You could then ask them to write their ideas as a poem or story.

In the magic box you will find -

*A sunset of crimson and gold,
a universe of whirling minds,
a shivering star,
a charging rhino with skin of metal,*