Core Vocabulary Word of the Week: Go!

Why focus on go?

The word 'go' has lots of different meanings in English and is a great 'core' word to teach your child across lots of different situations. If a child uses the single word 'swimming' you might wonder if your child means that they love swimming, they want to go swimming or they are wondering what time they will go swimming. Modelling and repeating the word 'go' helps them to understand how they can use this word meaningfully. Try using the word 'go' in the following situations to teach your child this word. All of these activities apply whether your child uses signs, symbols or speech as their main method of communication.

Activities for go:

Moving between places:

When your child communicates 'swimming' say '<u>go</u> swimming' as you leave the house. When walking between lessons or around school say 'go + place name' (e.g. go outside, go home). Pointing is a helpful gesture to do alongside the word.

Ready...Steady....GO!

Play games such as bubbles, rolling a ball or pushing a car with your child. Say 'ready, steady...' then pause and say 'go!' when they look excited about what you are doing. Over time, pause for longer to encourage them to initiate the word 'go'.

Music and instruments

Listen to songs together with your child and say the word 'go' when you press play. You might find it useful to target the words 'stop' and 'go' together e.g. shake the instrument, say 'stop!' then 'go!' and start to shake them together again.

Rejection

Remember we use the word 'go' to reject people or activities. If you notice your child getting annoyed (e.g. by a sibling), say 'go' (e.g. go away) to help them to understand how they can communicate this themselves.