

Big and Little

Before a child can understand a new word they need to have heard the word said for them many times. Only when a child understands the meaning of a word will they be able to use it appropriately.

Helping your child to understand 'big' and 'little'

Initially collect together several of the same object, some little, some big e.g. 3 big teddies and 3 little teddies. You can use any objects or pictures you like. (Ask your Speech and Language Therapist if you want them to provide you with picture material). Help the child to sort these pictures or objects into 'big' and 'little'.



You could have a big and little box or bag to post the pictures or objects in. Say the words 'big' and 'little' repeatedly as you play the game.

When your child can do this see if they can understand the words by asking 'find big teddy' or 'find little teddy'. Stress the words 'big' and 'little' and help your child by using hand gestures at first to show the different between 'big' and 'little'. Eventually they should be able to select the right object just by listening to the instruction and without extra clues like pointing or gestures.

Your Therapist will be able to tell you whether your child is ready to work on understanding 'big' and 'little' with a choice of a mixture of objects. If this is the case collect together a selection of objects, a big and little one of each object. Play games where your child must listen to your instruction e.g. "find big cup", "find little apple". You could hide the objects around the room, post the pictures or objects into a bag or box or any other fun game your child will enjoy.

As well as playing particular games involving 'big' / 'little', you can also help your child to learn these words by saying them when it is appropriate throughout the day. E.g. "big lorry", "little cup".

Helping your child to use the words 'big' and 'little'

Play similar games with 'big' and 'little' objects but occasionally ask your child to tell you if an object is 'big' or 'little'.

Swap roles and take it in turns to give each other instructions to find big or little objects.