

Bridging Activities

Across Key Word Levels

Some children who have difficulties learning language find it hard to extend their single word level understanding onto two key word level understanding.

For example, 'give the apple to teddy' when there are alternatives for the underlined words.

If your child understands a broad range of single words, including both object words and action words, it is helpful to extend their understanding to slightly longer instructions. Your Speech Therapist will help you to decide when it is the right time to do this.

What do I need for a bridging activity?

You will need a bag of objects and a character for example; Dora, a doll or a teddy.

The aim is to encourage your child to 'listen' to a single word and then 'do' something with the object.

1. Firstly demonstrate what you expect your child to do, for example 'give the ball to teddy'. Show them how to do this.
2. Next, encourage your child to have a go. They still only need to listen to the word 'ball' and then give it to the teddy (remember, there is only one teddy at this stage). It is fun to have objects that are functional such as a brush, cup, food, as you can make the appropriate action as well.
3. Then, when you feel that your child is able to do this easily, you can introduce another character (so there is both dolly and teddy). Now your child needs to 'listen' and respond to two key words.
4. Initially leave a gap between the key words in the instructions e.g 'find the apple.... Then give it to teddy'. When your child becomes more confident you can then reduce the gap.

