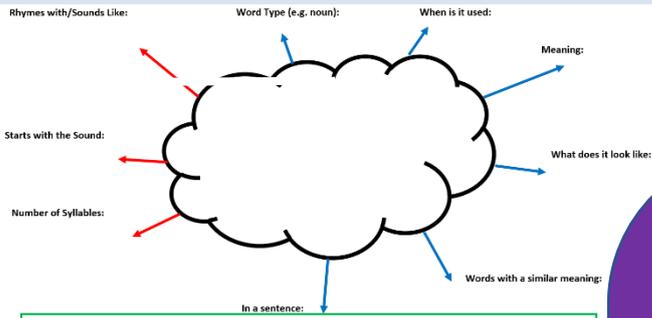


Building Vocabulary Knowledge



ACTIVITIES

- Create word maps – talking about the meaning, using the word in a sentence, the first sound, what it looks like
- Category Naming – Ask the child to name as many items as possible in different categories – food, electricals, clothes, fruit or pets or sort out pictures into different categories
- Get the child to follow instructions – eg. “get the chair”, “jump up and down”, “bounce the ball”, “make teddy eat”. This is particularly good for building verb vocabulary as you can get the child to act out different verbs. Reverse the roles and get the child to give instructions.
- Lotto game – make lotto boards of different pictures. Have a pack of cards which have individual pictures on it. Take it in turns to pick a card, name it and then put it on the lotto board.

General Strategies

- Keep language simple.
- Emphasise the target word.
- Reduce other distractions.
- Choose relevant and developmentally appropriate words.
- Present the word little and often.
- Describe the new word – colours, what it feels like, what it looks like, what it smells like, what do you do with it, what it tastes like, the category (furniture, animals, food)
- Describe how it is different from a word with a similar meaning
- The more you repeat the word in context, the easier it will be for the child to learn. Use it in as many ways as possible in a sentence.
- Ask them to match different items into categories and create word maps.
- Give the child a choice of words if they are struggling to think of the right word. Eg. “Is it a cat or a dog?”

Make vocabulary learning memorable

Make vocabulary learning as fun as possible. The better the fun, the more likely they are to remember it. Think of a silly action to go with word to help them remember or tell them a funny story using the word.

REPEAT,
REPEAT,
REPEAT