

WHAT ARE WORD FINDING DIFFICULTIES?

Children with word finding difficulties have difficulty finding words from their vocabulary store. They often know what they want to say, but they can't access the words they need to say it. This is similar to having the word on the tip of your tongue, but not being able to quite remember it. It can be frustrating for the child and their listener and can have an impact on the child's ability to get their message across fluently and clearly.

Children with word finding difficulties will usually demonstrate one or more of the following:

- **Semantic (meaning) errors**

The child uses a related word, e.g. "cow" instead of "sheep", "brush" instead of "cut".



- **Phonological (sound) errors**

The child uses a word that sounds similar or doesn't pronounce the word correctly, even though they can use all the sounds well in other words, e.g. "sheet" instead of "sheep", "cup" instead of "cut".

- **Non-specific words**

The child frequently uses a non-specific label, e.g. "thing" for "sheep", "doing" for "cutting".

- **Signs of effort or struggle**

The child may take longer than usual to respond, may show signs of tension or struggle, may avoid words, hesitate and re-phrase their ideas or may even give up on getting their message across.



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