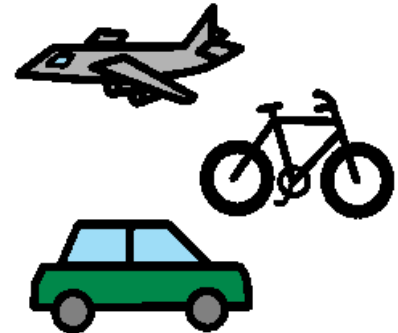


SUPPORTING BASIC VOCABULARY IN THE CLASSROOM

Some children have only a limited number of words that they can use when talking. The strategies below are useful when supporting children to use new words.

- Name items around the school to the child.
- Remind the child of these new words when working together. Remember this is not a test; tell the child the name of the item instead of asking, "what's this?"
- Help the child sort items into their family groups (categories) e.g. transport, animals, clothes etc. Then subdivide into smaller groups, e.g. road transport, air transport and water transport or animals that can fly/run/swim.
- Give the child time to think of any other items in the category.
- Encourage the child to describe the vocabulary item by talking about what it can do, what it is for, where you might find it and what it looks like.
- When a new topic is to be introduced to the class, take time to talk about the new vocabulary which the child *before* the lesson.
- Repeat new vocabulary frequently, using words in different sentences and talking about what it means.
- Encourage the child to say the word and to try to use it in spoken sentences.
- Show the child what the word looks like written down. They may wish to write or copy it.
- Display key vocabulary on the wall with pictures.
- Create a word bank or visual dictionary ordered A to Z.



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