**Helping your child understand and use new words**

* Have fun with words!

We all know children **learn best** when they are enjoying themselves.

Playing **word games** regularly will encourage an interest in words and also build on word learning skills.

* Understanding first … saying second

Help your child to **understand** what the word means before expecting them to say it. Talk about the word and show how it can be used.

Use **comments** rather than questions to do this.

* Repeat … repeat … repeat

The more times a child hears a word the more likely they are to learn it. This is particularly the case for children with speech and language difficulties.

* Actions can speak louder than words

Use **actions, gestures, signs** and/or **facial expressions** to show the meaning of words.

You can also add meaning by the **way you say** a word e.g. saying ‘terrified’ in a shaky voice.