

# **Word finding difficulties**

Information for parents, teachers and carers

For more information, please contact Speech & Language Therapy on:

**For York and Selby Area:** 01904 726599

**For Scarborough Whitby, Ryedale Area:** 01904 724366

## UNIVERSAL LEVEL: 'What you need to know'

### Support your child through;

- Attendance at our training courses:
  - *Working with children with vocabulary difficulties*
  - *Introduction to working with children with speech, language and communication needs in the inclusive classroom*
- Being aware of the way vocabulary skills develop
- Being aware of the difficulties that can happen in the development of these skills (limited vocabulary, vocabulary errors, word finding issues...)
- Being particularly aware of 'word finding' difficulties. We all experience times when we can't think of a word, but 'know it' and how frustrating that can be
- Being aware that hearing a word, even several times, does not mean the child has included it in his/her vocabulary.
- Being aware of what helps and doesn't help when children are struggling to think of words
- Understanding how these difficulties may affect flow of speech, confidence in speaking and Literacy skills (it's hard to write what you can't say)
- Accessing information from relevant sources.....



## TARGETED LEVEL 'How you adapt what you do, in light of what you know':

There is no specific solution to helping a child who is stuck for a word, a variety of approaches may be useful and it is often a case of trial and error to see what works best for the individual child.

- Ask your child if she /he has forgotten the word and offer help by asking 'Are you stuck?' or 'Would you like some help with this word?'
- Reassure him/her and boost her confidence by saying 'I know you know the word, don't you?... You just can't remember it right now.'
- Ask him/her to describe the thing she is thinking of. If appropriate, repeat his/her 'clues' back, to help him/her build up a better 'picture' in their mind of the word he/she is trying to remember
- Ask if he/she knows if it is a long word or a short word.
- Ask if he/she can think of the first sound / what it begins with.
- If you know the word he/she is trying to say, tell him/her the first sound.
- Give your child some time to think. Don't keep jumping in with suggestions
- Once he/she has remembered a word, repeat it and ask him/her to say it again. This reinforces both sound structure and word meaning.
- Your child may, in time, be able to voice his/her difficulties, e.g. "I'm sorry, I can't remember the word/ don't know the word" rather than just struggle on at length.
- Suitable interventions for promoting vocabulary development are:  
Word Aware  
Talk Boost

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## **Tell us what you think**

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact;

**For York and Selby Area:** 01904 726599

**For Scarborough Whitby, Ryedale Area:** 01723 342472

## **Teaching, Training and Research**

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of staff and improve health and healthcare in our community. Staff or students in training may attend consultations for this purpose. You can opt-out if you do not want trainees to attend. Staff may also ask you to be involved in our research.

## **Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)**

Patients, relatives and carers sometimes need to turn to someone for help, advice or support. Our PALS team is here for you.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or via email at [pals@york.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@york.nhs.uk)

An answer phone is available out of hours.

## **About Us**

Providing care together in York, Scarborough, Bridlington, Whitby, Malton, Selby and Easingwold.

## **Caring with Pride:**

Our ultimate objective is to be trusted to deliver safe, effective and sustainable healthcare within our communities.

## **Our values:**

- Caring about we do
- Respecting and valuing each other
- Listening in order to improve
- Always doing what we can to be helpful

Please telephone or email if you require this information in a different language or format

如果你要求本資訊是以不同的語言或版式提供，請致電或寫電郵

Jeżeli niniejsze informacje potrzebne są w innym języku lub formacie, należy zadzwonić lub wysłać wiadomość e-mail

Bu bilgileri değişik bir lisanda ya da formatta istiyorsanız lütfen telefon ediniz ya da e-posta gönderiniz



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Braille



Audio e.g.  
CD



Large print



Electronic

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