

General Strategies to Develop Vocabulary

- Target oral topic and everyday vocabulary.
- Say the word clearly and encourage the child to say it.
(If child cannot do this repeat the word and let him listen).
- Keep a book of vocabulary taught and review regularly:
 1. Say the word and ask the child what it means.
 2. Explain the word and encourage recall, prompt as needed.
 3. Encourage use of word orally in conversation and work sessions.
 4. Develop awareness of categories e.g. a page for each topic.
- Practise the skills that can gradually help the pupil to “self cue” more effectively. These include awareness of categories and associations. **(Semantic Links)**
Improve visualising skills so that they can recall a clearer image to name. There appears to be a link between poor word finding and poor visualisation/imagination.
- Give enhanced practice in saying essential words:
e.g. a regular **quiz for topic vocabulary** – Teacher describes a word pupils guess it.
e.g. use of cumulative **practice packs** of small cards to be quickly flipped through and named daily:
high frequency/key reading words, letters and letter patterns, maths symbols.
- Bypass the problem to enable them to record and review information by giving **word lists** to support writing or **jumbled sentences** to order and copy. Not all written tasks need to be a word finding test.
- Teach the use of a **work plan** early. This should divide up the language tasks so that word finding does not disrupt the development of ideas, sentence construction and the mechanics of writing and spelling.
e.g. **LEGS**

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| L ist | generate the key word needed, recall, ask, lookup etc. |
| E dit | cross out any not really relevant this time, check correctness of spelling |
| G roup | use coloured pencils to group ideas and words |
| S equences | decide on an order for the “colours” and number Lastly concentrate on the mechanics of expanding into sentences – if necessary. |
- Consolidate vocabulary recall through signs, pictures and writing e.g. matching pictures to words, cloze procedure, word searches.