



SUPPORTING SINGLE WORD UNDERSTANDING

IN EVERYDAY SITUATIONS

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Before children can say lots of words they need to be able to understand them. They start off using cues from us to help their understanding eg where we look and where we point. These suggestions help children understand single words more easily without cues from us.

It is important to help your child to begin to learn the meanings of simple naming words. It is only when they can understand these words that they will begin to use them.

When talking to your child, use short simple sentences so that they can hear the important words:

e.g. *'look - bus'* instead of *'look there's a red bus going down the road'*

It may seem unnatural to only use single words, but listening to single words makes it easier for your child to learn and use that word than if they hear it in a sentence.

- 🚩 When playing together, use **single words** to describe what your child is playing with eg car, elephant, ball, doll.
- 🚩 At bath time, use **single words to describe your actions** as you wash feet, arms, face etc. Then give your child the sponge and ask them to wash their ears, hands, feet, knees, toes, arm, and so on.
- 🚩 When out shopping, name each item as it goes into the trolley. Do the same when unpacking at home. Playing shopping games with pretend or real food can also help practise understanding at the single word level.
- 🚩 Let your child help you sort out the washing. Naming the clothes will also help develop your child's understanding of everyday single words.
- 🚩 Share a picture book or simple jigsaw puzzle and ask your child to find or point out one item.



Remember

A child needs to **hear a word hundreds of times** before they will use it. This means **saying words for** them lots of times.

