

Helping your child to recognise words

Words in books

- Point to a word. Ask your child to find the same word on a different page.
- When reading books with repeating patterns, ask your child to point to the words as they read them. Pointing focuses on reading the words rather than just memorising the text.
- Before reading a new book, ask your child to look through the first few pages and find words that he or she already knows. This can help a nervous child feel more confident about tackling something new.

Looking closely

- Talk about the shape of different words: for example, ‘a long word’, ‘a short word’.
- Write words using different media (paint, felt pens, rainbow crayons).
- Make words out of magnetic, foam or plastic letters.
- Use the letters to make two words that are similar, such as ‘the’ and ‘they’. Ask your child to say what is the same and what is different. Then ask the child to make ‘the’ into ‘they’ and ‘they’ into ‘the’.

Using words in context

- Use common words to make labels for use in the home: for example, ‘My _____’, ‘The _____’.
- Make clues for a treasure hunt using common words like ‘Look in the _____’. You can use pictures for more difficult words that describe hiding places: for example, ‘basket’, ‘garage’, ‘bath’.