Dear Parents,

The New Primary Language Curriculum has three strands: oral language, reading and writing. There are three elements within each strand:

* Developing communicative relationships through language (Communicating)
* Understanding the content and structure of language (Understanding)
* Exploring and using language (Exploring and using)

The following is a list of simple activities and games that can be played at home to promote your child’s oral language development.

**I spy**

* I spy with my little eye something that **rhymes with**……….
* I spy with my little eye something that is **red/blue/yellow etc.**
* I spy with my little eye something that **begins/ends with the sound** ….
* I spy with my little eye something that **begins/ends with the letter…**

**Odd-one-out**

Examples:

1. apple orange pencil banana
2. giraffe elephant tiger book
3. motorbike apartment house palace

Make up lists based on furniture, vegetables, items of clothing, facial features, film titles, superheroes etc.

Encourage your child to answer as follows:

*book* **is the odd-one-out because** all the others are animals.

# **Opposites (Antonyms)**

What’s the opposite of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Examples:

long/short late/early big/small (little) slow/fast rough/smooth

up/down in/out bright/dark happy/sad ugly/beautiful

first/last young/old hot/cold rich/poor new/old

# **Riddles**

Parent gives clues e.g

1. I’m round, yellow and I provide light and heat. **What** am I?
2. I sat on a tuffet and was frightened by a spider. **Who** am I? (Nursery rhyme characters)
3. I help sick people to get better. **Who** am I? (Occupations/famous people/people in the child’s own family)

Eventually your child can be encouraged to give the clues.

# **Spot the Mistake**

Using nursery rhymes e.g.

* Jack and Jill went up a ladder…
* Hickory Dickory Dock, the mouse ran up the bookshelf…
* Little Miss Muffet sat on a swing…
* Hey diddle diddle, the cat and the drums…

Ask child for correct version (rhyming version)

**Sense/Nonsense: (Child answers ‘Sense’ or ‘Nonsense’ to statements)**

Examples:

* Horses can fly
* Birds build nests
* Cows lay eggs
* Feathers grow on trees

# **Clap/Tap**

Child copies parent’s pattern of clapping and tapping on the table beginning with simple patterns and gradually becoming more difficult.

**Examples**: Clap, Clap, Tap, Tap, Clap Clap, Tap

Clap, Clap, Clap, Tap, Tap, Tap, Clap, Tap, Clap, Tap, Clap, Clap, Clap

# **Tell Me…/Hot Seat (Child attempts to speak on a topic for one minute)**

1. …about your favourite programme/movie/toy/game.
2. …about your last birthday.
3. …about the book you read this morning.
4. …about your pet/a pet you would like.

# **Hello/Hello**

Use old or toy mobile phones to act out telephone conversations

Examples:

1. Telephoning a friend to invite her/him to a birthday party
2. Calling to thank a relative for a present or a day out.
3. Making an emergency phone call to the garda or for an ambulance/fire brigade

# **What if…**

Asking your child to predict what he/she would do if…

1. a spaceship landed in your back garden.
2. he/she got lost in the supermarket.
3. he/she became famous overnight.

# **Sequences**

# Saying the days of the week in the correct order

Listen to a sequence and repeat it:

Examples:

1. Red blue yellow green red blue yellow green
2. 6 5 2 3 6 5 2 3 6 5 2 3
3. k r p k r p k r p

(Add to sequence according to child’s ability)

# **Prepositions**

Where is Teddy/Spiderman/Barbie?

Use of toy to elicit from your child as many of the following prepositions as possible:

on, in, under, beside, between, behind, in front of, on top of.

The above are merely suggestions on how you can promote your child’s language development and reinforce the work being done in school. You may like to try one game per evening or try a few examples from several activities depending on your child’s interest. If you find that your child is resisting playing any of the games, don’t feel compelled to complete it. Any time spent chatting to your child is equally valuable.

Yours Sincerely,

Lorraine Tallon.