

Working on Concepts

Concepts are describing words e.g. shape, size, colour, time

Helpful Tips

- Teach one concept at a time e.g. teach “big” on its own before “small”
- Use “not...” rather than opposites (e.g. tall/not tall, cold/not cold).
- Use all the senses (see it, say it, feel it) as much as possible.
- Repeat the activities many times.

First: Use Objects

- ✓ Use real objects and actions - the child needs to see it, feel it, do it.
- ✓ Say the word as your child plays
- ✓ Sort objects into groups (e.g. big / not big; hard / not hard etc).
- ✓ Practice the word on its own.....then say it in a sentence e.g. “Put the **big** pig in the box/ Put the cow that is **not big** in the bag”.

Next: Use Pictures

- ✓ Use pictures. You may need to use photos first, then coloured pictures, then black and white pictures.
- ✓ Match objects to photos / pictures.
- ✓ Practice the word on its own.....then say it in a sentence e.g. “Put the **big** pig in the box/ Put the cow that is **not big** in the bag”.

Later: Throughout the day

- ✓ Say the concept words throughout the child’s day (e.g. you have the **big** biscuit, these are your **little** shoes etc.).
- ✓ Help your child to read, write and draw the concept word.
- ✓ If your child says it wrong – say the right word back to them. Do not ask them to say the word again - they will slowly begin to use it.

