

LET'S TALK

Spring

TOP ACTIVITIES THIS TERM

- Go to the park - what animals and flowers can you spot?
- Enjoy a picnic - can you choose what to have and make it together.
- Plant some seeds and watch them grow.



Screen time

Did you know that professionals don't recommend screen time for children under 2 years of age and suggest limiting it to 1 hour a day for children from 2 - 5 years of age, more info [here](#). You can make the most of the time children are spending on screens by:

- **Watching a program together** with your child so you can talk about what they see, giving important language input.
- **Paying attention to what your child is watching** - Over 2 years of age, educational programs tends to be better for a child's language development.
- **Don't let screen time replace your child's play** - remember books and playtime, which we know help to develop language skills.

Singing

Experts in child development have discovered that if a child knows eight nursery rhymes off by heart by the time they are 4 years old, they're usually among the best readers by the time they are 8!

Sing songs together with a spring theme:

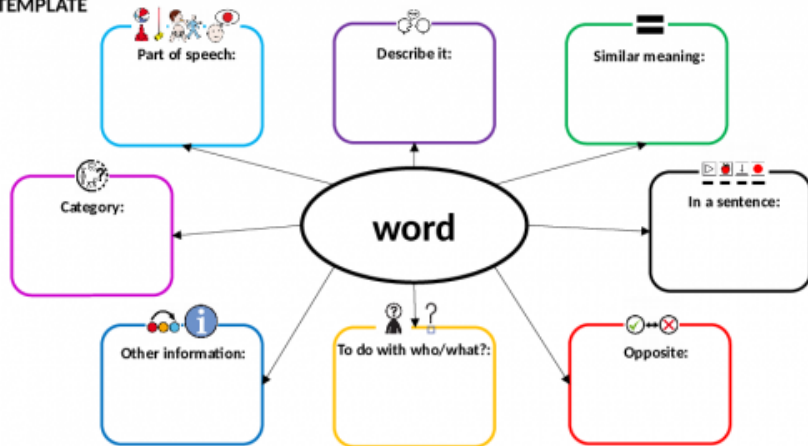
- Five little ducks
- Five little speckled frogs
- Mary had a little lamb
- It's raining, it's pouring





Help children to learn and recall new words by introducing them like this:

TEMPLATE



Talk about:

- The meaning of the word
- Describe the word
- Talk about how the word sounds
- Use the word in a sentence / make up a song
- Remember to note down the word and use it frequently / check to make sure it is remembered!

Curious Questions

Remember to use lots of comments when talking with your child, with less questions (think one question to every 5 comments).

We can ask questions at different levels, ranging from easier to harder, depending on the child's language level. This model is called the Blank model. Examples of questions at different levels include:

- **Level 1** : What can you see / hear?
What is this?
- **Level 2**: What is happening?
You dig with a ...?
- **Level 3**: How are these flowers that same?
What is a butterfly?
- **Level 4**: What made the plant grow?
What will happen next?

If your child finds a question hard, try an easier one or just make a comment to give the child the information

Learning new words

Did you know a child starting school will have an average vocabulary of around 5000 words. This means between the ages of one and five, children will learn around 3.5 words per day. Children need to hear a variety of different words to build sentences:

Nouns

- Butterfly
- Mud
- leaf
- outside
- soil
- insect
- vegetable
- weather
- rain
- sun

Verbs

- To grow
- To plant
- To water
- To dig
- To splash
- To bloom
- To hatch

Describing words

- bright
- colourful
- new
- dirt
- wet
- soft
- cloudy
- sunny



Using signs helps children to understand and learn new vocabulary. In Swindon we use Signalong. You can find some signs for spring vocabulary [here](#)



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