

## Bolton Start Well

### Early Years Communication and Language Development Service

#### Tip of the Month for Practitioners – March 2024

### Expose children to rare and unusual vocabulary!

As children learn basic words to communicate their needs, build on their interests to expose them to more sophisticated words that they do not hear in everyday conversations.

Even very young children can start to learn more sophisticated words, even though it will be a long time before they use them.

Explain and repeat words in different situations, to help them develop a full understanding of the word's meaning.

Knowledge of a greater variety of words, helps children to understand what they read and gives them the background knowledge they will need in subjects like science, history, geography, and maths.

**Reference:** Rowe, M. (2012). A longitudinal investigation of the quantity and quality of child-directed speech in vocabulary development. *Child development*, 83(5), 1762-1774

Use gestures to help a young child understand the meaning of an unfamiliar word. For example, while putting boots and jackets on, tell the child, "There's an enormous pile of snow for you to play in outside!" as you hold your hands out far apart to illustrate the word 'enormous'. Repeat the word again once you are outside pointing to the snow.

#### Additional resources:

- [Bolton Early Years Integrated Communication and Language Pathway – Bolton Start Well](#)
- [Learning and Development – Communication and Language Resources](#)
- [Learning and Development – Tips to Promotes Communication and Language](#)
- [Learning and Development – Bolton's 5 Golden Rules for Communication](#)
- [Learning and Development – The Role of the Communication Champion and Resources](#)

### Songs of the Month

'Little Green Frog' and 'I have ten little fingers and they all belong to me'

Additional information can be found online on the Bolton Start Well website: [Learning and Development – Bolton Start Well](#)

Search for Bolton Start Well on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for regular updates