

## Vocabulary Activities

**Category Naming:** Give three or four items belonging to the same category (e.g. drum, flute, guitar and piano) and then ask the child to identify the category. You can then reverse this naming game and give the category first, then have the child name three or four items belonging to that category. To make this activity more challenging you ask the child to name as many items as possible in one minute. Write down their answers and try to *beat* their previous score each time you practice.

**Antonyms:** Naming opposites. Choose a word and try to come up with the opposite of that word.

**Synonyms:** Naming words that have the same, or almost the same meaning. This activity tends to be more difficult than naming opposites. However, it is a great practise tool for strengthening word retrieval skills. For more of a challenge, try to name **two** synonyms for each word.

**Fill in the Blank:** Say a familiar phrase and leave the last word out. Try to supply the missing word. When phrases become mastered you can move on to sentences.

**Similarities:** Choose two words within a category and describe how they are the same. For example: *How are a car and a bus the same?* This activity encourages the child to think about word associations. This cognitive ability can be used as a strategy to aid in word retrieval.

**Differences:** This activity tends to be more challenging than describing similarities between words. Using the same example as above: *How are a car and a bus different?* This exercise encourages the child to remember specific details that make similar objects different from one another.

**Odd one out game:** The child is presented with three or four items and one of the pictures / object / written words is from a different category. The child must identify the odd one out and discuss why. Encourage the child to use category words e.g. banana, apple, cherry and carrots we would like the child to identify that the first three are types of fruit and carrots are a type of vegetable.

**Sorting games:** Cut up pictures relating to two different categories e.g. fruit and vegetables. The child then sorts the pictures into the correct category.

**Word association games:** The child is given a word and has to think of an associated word. For example: pilot goes with....(plane), taxi goes with.....(driver).

**Sentence completion:** for example “a banana is something you eat, lemonade is something you..... (drink), a duck lives in a pond, a horse lives in a.....(stable)”.

