

Connectives

Connectives are the words that we use to join two ideas together in one sentence. Some examples of connectives are: **and, because, then, so, but.**

Activities to develop “and”

Holiday Game: Have a selection of pictures/photos/objects that you might pack in your suitcase to go on holiday e.g. clothes, toys, books, bucket, spade, sunglasses. Ask the child which objects they want to “take on holiday”. Initially model the use of “and” then encourage them to use “and” spontaneously. For example “I want to pack my shorts and my cap”, “.....and my ball.....and a spade....and a bucket”.



Follow the Leader: at first the adult gives the child instructions e.g. “clap your hand and stamp your feet”. Then encourage the child to tell you what to do, making sure they give you 2 and then 3-4 instructions using “and” to join the sentence.

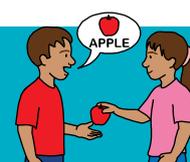
Story Time: use picture books or a selection of action pictures. Take turns to describe what the people/animals are doing e.g. “the little girl is jumping and the boy is running”, “the brown dog is dirty and the spotty dog is clean”. If you are using pictures/photos play posting games for example put the cards face down on the table. Take turns to pick up two pictures and describe them using “and”. Then post the pictures in a post box: “I’ve got the boy running and the girl eating”.

Menu Game: have a selection of real or pretend food/pictures or you could make a menu. Pretend you are in a café/restaurant and take turns to order what you would like to eat/drink: “I would like pizza and orange juice and yoghurt”.



Sequencing Game: use pictures that tell a story. Encourage the child to put the pictures into the correct order. Talk about what is happening and model and encourage the use of “and” e.g. “the boy fell off his bike and hurt his arm and he started crying”.

Daily Routines: ask the child to talk about daily routines such as getting ready for school, making a sandwich, getting ready for bed etc. encourage the child to describe what happens using “and” to join their sentences: “I get up and I get dressed”, “I put my pyjamas on and brush my teeth and listen to a story”. As well as daily routines you can ask the child to talk about any visits they’ve been on e.g. to the park/seaside/grandparents.



Activities to develop “because”

Ask “Why?” Questions, such as “Why do you like cars? Encourage the child to answer the questions using “because”. Once the child becomes confident at answering “why” questions encourage them to repeat the whole sentence e.g. “I like cars because they’re fast”.

Why/Because Pictures: your Speech and Language Therapist may provide you with a set of why/because pictures. Use these to encourage the use of “because”. Place the two pictures in front of the child cover one of the pictures and ask the child to describe the uncovered picture then ask “why?” questions e.g. “why is the boy happy?” “.....because it’s his birthday”

Real Situations: talk about events that happen within the classroom and at home e.g. “Mary is crying because she’s hurt her finger”, “we need to pack up now because it’s dinner time”.



Silly Me: play silly games or use “what’s wrong?” cards. For example put gloves on your feet, coat on backwards, use a banana to write with and ask “why is this funny?”.

Activities for harder connectives:

and then, if, when, but, although, so, before, after

- Use books/action pictures and describe what is happening. Model/encourage the use of more complex connectives.
- Write a sentence and then cut up the segments. Encourage the child to re-order the words and re-tell the sentence.
- Re-tell stories again modelling and encouraging the child to use more difficult joining words.

