

## Activities to develop first words using pictures

- **Books:** Share books with the child. Look through them and talk about what the child points to or turns the page to. Don't worry about reading the words / story at the moment, just enjoy sharing the pictures.
- **Posting Box Game:** Use simple flashcards or pictures cut up from catalogues/old greetings cards etc. Make a post box from an old cardboard box or ice-cream tub. Encourage the child to pick up the pictures and post them in the box. Talk about the pictures as you look at them together. Say the single words, for example, "sock", "bye bye sock".
- **Scrap Book:** Make a scrap book from old catalogues/ calendars/ greetings cards. Talk about pictures you stick in the book. Group the pictures together into categories, like animals, food, clothes. Try using your own photos of people and toys the child knows.



- **Fishing Game:** Use pictures stick onto the shape of a fish. Pretend to go fishing and pick up the pictures with your hand or make a fishing rod from a magnet and put paperclips on each picture. Take it in turns to pick pictures and talk about them.
- **Lotto game/matching pairs:** Buy a simple lotto game/matching pairs game or make one using pictures from the internet using everyday object pictures. Enjoy playing the game and talking about the pictures. Use games with only a few pictures to begin with and extend it as the child succeeds.
- **Simple wooden puzzles (inset puzzles):** Choose one with just a few clear pictures. Name the pictures as you take them out and put them back in.
- **Object/picture matching:** Use some pictures of everyday objects/toys around the house or setting. Encourage the child to pick a picture and then go to find the real object. Make the pictures very familiar at first such as a favourite soft toy, a car or a ball but try and make them gradually harder, such as keys, a spoon or a cup.

