Understanding of questions: Who?

It is important for children to have a clear understanding of the question word ‘who’ and to be able to clearly understand that this relates to characters and people.

A colour-coding approach can be useful when helping to develop understanding of question words. Discuss this with your Speech and Language Therapist.

Ideas to try at home for who questions:

- Use a visual prompt to reinforce the ‘who’ question when you ask it. This could be a sign or a picture or symbol.

- Look at family photos, in favourite books or magazines and talk about ‘who’ you can see. E.g. ‘who can you see…(pause) .. I can see mummy and grandma’ extend this to ask ‘who is sleeping?’, ‘who is happy?’ ‘who has red shoes?’

- Using family photos or pictures of favourite characters, blue-tack the photos on skittles or empty drinks bottles. Take turns to knock skittles over. Who have you knocked over?

- Collect some photos of people or pictures of favourite characters and ask the child to close their eyes then take one away and ask ‘who is missing?’

- ‘Who am I talking about’? Based on the idea of the game ‘guess who?’ gather some photos or family members and/or favourite characters. Give brief clues each time e.g. ‘they’ve got brown hair – who am I talking about?’ If they can’t guess encourage your child to ask for another clue.

- When reading a story or saying a sentence encourage your child to listen out for the word that tells them ‘who’ the story is about.