



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOL- AGED CHILDREN

Elklan Training run courses delivered by speech and language therapists and specialist teachers. We want to share some simple techniques and activities that we have recommended over the years that you can use at home with children to support their language and communication skills. These activities may be useful to help children with learning and keeping them focused and engaged. These activities can be used every day and really work!

Narrative skills and Telling stories



Narrative skills are important as we use these in conversation to explain what we did, what we are going to do, what happened yesterday, what we would like to do and to give accurate accounts of our lives. Being able to retell an event is also important for writing stories.

Tips to develop story telling skills:

- Read your child a story and talk about what is happening, ask simple questions. Ask prediction questions such as 'what do you think will happen next?'
- Practice sequencing pictures to retell an event or story. Start with two pictures and increase them as necessary. To make this more meaningful, try and use sequences involving your child. You may like to take some photos of everyday routines or outings where the child has been involved.
- Build up a sequence of events with your child. Start with familiar routines, e.g. getting up, going out for a walk. Ask your child what you do first and what you should do next. This will help your child use

language to sequence their ideas. You could make a story board chart with your child detailing the order of familiar routines.

- Story planners are useful to create and develop a story or account showing the important elements *who, where, when, what happened, the end*. Think about beginning, middle and end.
- Use the story planner elements to ask questions about key aspects of a story or event
- Use magazines, stories, films to highlight the different aspects of stories or events and to answer questions about these. For example, 'who was the story about?'
- Encourage the child to retell stories in their own words.

If you would like to find out more about our e-learning opportunities please visit our website at <https://www.elklan.co.uk/information/practitioners/e-learning-opportunities> for a range of interactive courses to suit all ages, with or without accreditation.

For more information or advice about any of our courses or resources, and to find out about upcoming opportunities, please contact Clare on clare@elklan.co.uk or ring us on 01208 841450

Useful links and resources:

Colourful Stories www.elklan.co.uk. A visual support strategy to help children learn about, tell and write stories.

Blacksheep Press www.blacksheeppress.co.uk. Range of narrative resources to help children with language and developing speech sounds.

Language Builders. Practical advice, strategies and activities for school -age children (2012) www.elklan.co.uk

Let's Talk with 5-11s workbook (2018) www.elkan.co.uk

STASS Publications www.stasspublications.co.uk