

Other things to try : 5a

Understanding and responding correctly to questions requiring a 'yes'/'no' answer

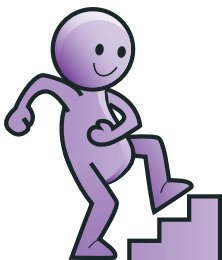


Why is this important?

Children learn to use 'yes' and 'no' in the right places initially as part of having their needs met (e.g. 'Do you need the toilet?', 'Would you like a drink?').

What to do

- Cut out some familiar pictures from magazines/catalogues – about ten to start with.
- Show the child a picture (e.g. cup).
- Say something about the picture which could be correct or incorrect, e.g.
 - ★ 'Is this a pencil?' – No.
 - ★ 'Do you wear this?' – No.
 - ★ 'Is this a cup?' – Yes.



Step up

- Ask more difficult questions relating to function (e.g. 'Can we sit on it?', 'Has it got a handle?').
- Reverse the activity so that the child is asking you the questions.
- Offer a small selection of pictures (e.g. animals, fruit, furniture) face-down: take it in turns to choose one and ask questions to work out what the picture is.
- Try this with children working in pairs or a small group.

Step down

- Use gestures/signs to help the child understand the questions – lots of head nodding and shaking!
- Only ask questions relating to the object name (e.g. 'Is this a ...?').
- Ask questions which are all a 'yes' answer to begin with, then introduce a series of 'no' responses before mixing the two.

N.B. children often say 'no' more than 'yes' – this is part of growing up and not always language-related!

