

# Verbs

A verb is an action word. It tells you what someone or something is doing. For example, the cat is *sleeping*; mum is *going* to the shops. Verbs are really important for language development as they allow your child to start making early sentences.

Once your child can name around 20-30 items start introducing them to everyday verbs, such as *eat, drink, wash, sleep, jump, fall, look, throw, walk* and *go*.

Focus on your child being able to understand verbs (e.g. follow instructions such as 'wash your hands') before expecting them to be able to use verbs (e.g. saying 'hug doggy').

## Activities for Working on Verbs

- The best way to develop understanding and use of verbs is to talk about what your child is doing during everyday activities. For example, if they are on the trampoline say '*jump*' every time they jump; during bath time talk say what you are doing – '*We're washing your face, washing your arms, washing your feet...*'
- Whilst playing with toys give your child instructions such as '*make teddy fly/sleep/drink*'.
- Find pictures of people doing different activities. Show your child 2-3 pictures at a time and ask them to 'find X'. For example, '*find the person who is walking*'. To make this more fun you could get your child to feed the correct picture to a puppet or post it in a post box (empty shoe box).
- 4 Corners: Put a picture showing a different action in each corner of the room. Call out one of the actions and see who can be first to reach that picture and copy that action.
- Simon Says: Give instructions such as '*Simon says hop*'.
- Charades: Take it in turns to do an action (e.g. pretend to *kick* a ball) and see if you can guess what the other person is doing.

## Tips for Working on Verbs:

- Focus on just 1-2 verbs at a time.
- If your child makes a mistake, show them what they should have said or done.