

SBH SCHOOL TIPS

With the holidays fast approaching – it can be a great time to consolidate and continue promoting learning for children! This month’s newsletter is focussed on vocabulary promotion and assisting with literacy difficulties.

Vocabulary Development



To start off we have put together strategies for you to use with your child to promote vocabulary development.

1. **Read Aloud:** Read books with characters and plots – the more you challenge your child with diverse language and words, the faster they will build and develop their vocabulary
2. **Show and Tell:** This is a great way for children to explore and learn words. Give your child the floor so they can tell you about their finding. The true benefit of this activity comes from sharing information and experiences
3. **Talk:** Never underestimate the power of a good conversation and information to the development of vocabulary. Try to get your children involved in activities that you are doing and talk through the routine. This will help improve their independence with skills and provide lots of learning opportunities beyond.
4. **Vary your Language:** Always use a variety of words to describe things – not just “good” and “nice”. With each new experience can come the opportunity to learn new words

For more strategies and other activities, you can do with children – check out our “Strategies to Promote Vocabulary Development” on our new website!

Assisting with Literacy Difficulties



Alongside promoting vocabulary development - many children with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus experience some difficulties with literacy, acquisition and development. The following are some suggestions and strategies that may be useful in assisting children with these difficulties. The best way to learn new information is to present that information in many different mediums, using multisensory teaching. This technique is beneficial for many children with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, as well as typically developing children, as we all have different learning styles and strengths in different sensory areas (e.g., some will be better visual learners than auditory learners). The following are different techniques that you can use with your child or student to help them learn their sight words. These techniques include visual strategies (e.g., writing the word, using different colours, tracing, imagining etc), as well as auditory strategies (e.g., saying things aloud, hearing it being said).

For effective learning and retention of sight words make sure that you use many of these mediums in combination.

Look → Think → Highlight the Hard Bits → Trace → Copy → Imagine → Recall → Write → Check

For a further break down of each component you can check out the “Strategies to Assist with Literacy Difficulties” on the SBH Disability Services website.