



Using describing words

Describing words tell us about what we see, hear, feel, and do.

Children can tell us more about their experiences as they learn new **describing words**.

To help children use **describing words** in sentences, you can:

Use describing words in your own talking about shared experiences, and

Repeat children's sentences and **add on describing words**.

Play with describing words: Use describing words in your play together



Play...with play dough

Have fun with play dough, or modelling clay.

Use **describing words** to talk about what you make together.

Child: I made a giraffe.

You: It's a **tall** giraffe!



At home...at meal time

Use **describing words** to talk about what's for dinner.

Your child can help you set the table, or prepare some of the food.

You: Can you pass me the **metal** bowl?

Let's put these **green** beans on the **blue** plate.



Out and about...at the shops

When you are at the shops, talk about the groceries.

Repeat your child's sentence and add on **describing words**.

Child: Let's get rolls.

You: Let's get **round** rolls.



Using describing words

Read with describing words: Visit the library and borrow some books

The Wonky Donkey by Craig Smith

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst

Words that describe: Use these words in your day

Describing words help us to picture or imagine people, places and events.

What you see: *yellow, striped, spotty, huge, tiny, beautiful, sparkly, colourful*

What you hear: *loud, tinkly, booming, sharp, shrill*

What you taste: *delicious, awful, spicy, horrible, yummy, sweet*

What you feel: *soft, crunchy, goey, lovely, scratchy, bumpy, fluffy*

Learn about describing words: Ways to help language grow

When you **use describing words in your own talking**, you are:

- Showing children ways to describe what they experience, and
- Helping them to use more **describing words**.

When you **repeat children's sentences** and **add on describing words**, you are:

- Showing you understand what they have said, and
- Helping children describe what they saw, heard, or did using more information.

Children not have to repeat words after you. The more often children hear **describing words** to talk about experiences in their day, the more likely they will understand new words and use them in their own talking.

Speech pathology key terms: Descriptive language, modelling, expansion.