

Children's Speech and Language Therapy

What could they be saying?

Talking about what characters might be saying in a picture can help children see things from a different point of view. It develops understanding of empathy and that other people's knowledge and opinions don't match our own.

- To start, find a large picture scenario or book with pictures (try to ignore the words).
- Try to find pictures with people in them, where the situation can easily be interpreted without the words.
- Let the child look at the picture for a while and see what's happening.
- Discuss what's happening in the picture in detail.
 - Who is in the picture?
 - What might be happening now?
 - Can you guess what might have happened before?
 - How do the characters feel?

Encourage the child to think about what the characters might be saying to each other in the picture.

The child may find it easier if you try to do this within role play. Pretend to be a character each (either in a 1:1 setting or small group) and act out the scenario as you interpret it.

Make it simple...

If the child is finding this difficult, try to encourage them to think about the same scenario if it was happening to them instead of the characters in the picture. How would the child feel? What would they say?

Extension...

If the child is doing well with this, extend the activity by changing something about the picture. You could discuss what might happen next and what the characters might say. What about if an element of the story was changed? For example, if the girl who was scared of the ghost could make herself invisible or the boy who dropped his ice-cream was given another one? You could explore this through discussion or through role play.