

Core Vocabulary Therapy

The main aim of core vocabulary therapy is to try and establish consistency of production, that is, trying to make sure your child says words the same way each time they say it.

The first step is to choose 50 words. This will be the core vocabulary that will be worked on in therapy. The 50 words should be ones that your child uses a lot so they will be motivated to say them everyday. The words do not have to be easy or short words. The words should just be ones your child uses a lot, and are often hard for people who don't know your child to understand. The types of words that people choose are usually names of family, friends and pets, places like school, park, pool, useful words like please, thank you, sorry, toilet, and things the child really likes (favourite toys, tv shows).

Each week we will choose a set of words to work on. In the first therapy session we will try and teach your child the word sound by sound and find their best pronunciation of the words. Their 'best' production will then be the target for the week. Most of the target words will probably be the correct version of the word. However for some words your child's best production might not be 'perfect'. But that's okay because the main aim is to get them to say it the same way each time.

We will write the target words and your child's best production on a sheet. For example, if the target word was 'computer' and your child was able to say 'tomputer' at the end of the first session then we would write that in their book. Each time they say 'computer' that week we need you to make sure your child says their best production i.e. 'tomputer'. We will develop some strategies with you to help with this teaching. For example if your child said 'tomtuter' for 'computer', you might say "computer has a 'p' in the middle - try again". If your child started saying 'computer' correctly during the week then the *best production* will change from then on, so you only accept 'computer'.

The target words for the week and the 'best production' need to be visible at home and at school so any adult talking with your child can help with the therapy. Run through the words at least twice a day. This only takes about 2 minutes. As well as practising these words try and make sure your child says the best production whenever you hear them say one of the target words. In the second session we will practise the target words and talk about any problems you might be having.