

Word Aware in Early Years

Helping your child understand new words

Words are important

To learn well at school, children need to understand and speak many words. These words will help them in maths and science.

Talk about the word in your first language

You can make a difference helping your child learn new words.

Try not to use the opposite word

This feels very odd at first but it will really help your child. So, you say **long** and **not long** (try not to say short for a bit)

Make sure you use the word lots of times.

Your child will then naturally copy you.

Do a little every day

Pick one of the activities each day (you don't need to do anything at the weekend)

It doesn't matter if you haven't got the right things.

Swap it for else e.g. If you don't have a cat use a teddy.

Do one new word every week.

Start with 'long'.

Have fun with words

Learning the word **long**

Introduce the word	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a picture of the word long on page 8. Look at the picture together. Talk about the picture. • Can you think of action that you can do with your hands to show long? • Can you and your child say the word long together? • Sing the word song. You can use the sheet on page 9 or you can sing along to a version on line. Search for 'YouTube Word Aware Rap'. It starts 'Oh ah say the word' then you have to say long.
Concept cat story	<p>Things you need: Concept Cat toy, a ball, a small spade (must not have a long handle), a long stick, and a long piece of string.</p> <p>Concept Cat is a clever, clever cat. He looks here, he looks there, learning as he goes and, when he comes home, he tells us a story. Concept Cat is a clever, clever cat.</p> <p>This story is all about long. Listen out for the word long.</p> <p>At home one day, Concept Cat was helping Mum in the garden. She said, 'Please go and find something long. I need a long thing.' Concept Cat nodded but he did not know what long meant. So, he set off to find out all about long.</p> <p>First, Concept Cat found a ball. Maybe that was long. He showed it to Mum. 'No,' she said, 'I need something long. The ball is not long.'</p> <p>Concept Cat went off again and found a spade. He showed it to Mum. 'No,' she said, 'I need something long. That spade is not long.' Next, Concept Cat found a stick. He showed it to Mum. 'Yes,' she said, 'that stick is long. This string is long too.'</p> <p>The ball was not long. The spade was not long. The stick was long. Concept Cat, what a clever, clever cat. He knows all about long.</p>
More activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about who has long hair and who does not have long hair. • Cut up bits of paper. Can you make some long and some not long? • Build toy train tracks of varying length. Take turns to talk about the tracks being either long or not long. • Talk about what long things you can play with or make, eg train tracks, threading beads, paper, snakes • Have jumping competitions. Who can do a very long jump? Or ask children to bring in anything long from home.

Learning the word **hard**

Introduce the word	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a picture of the word hard on page 8. Look at the picture together. Talk about the picture. • Can you think of action that you can do with your hands to show hard? • Can you and your child say the word hard together? • Sing the word song. You can use the sheet on page 9 or you can sing along to a version on line. Search for 'YouTube Word Aware Rap'. It starts 'Oh ah say the word' then you have to say hard.
Concept cat story	<p>Things you need: Concept Cat toy, a bouncy ball, hard floor, a cushion, a chair and a jumper.</p> <p>Concept Cat is a clever, clever cat. He looks here, he looks there, learning as he goes and, when he comes home, he tells us a story. Concept Cat is a clever, clever cat.</p> <p>This story is all about hard. Listen out for the word hard.</p> <p>Concept Cat likes playing with a ball. He wants to bounce the ball on something hard.</p> <p>He bounces it on the floor. It bounces! The floor is hard. He tries to bounce the ball on a cushion. No, the cushion is not hard!</p> <p>Concept Cat wants something hard for his ball to bounce on. He tries a chair. The chair is hard. He tries his jumper. No, the jumper is not hard.</p> <p>Concept Cat touches the floor and the chair to feel that they are hard. He touches the jumper and the cushion to feel that they are not hard.</p> <p>Concept Cat, what a clever, clever cat. He knows all about hard.</p>
More activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look around the house. Can you find things that are hard and not hard? Who can find the most hard things? • Do you have the book 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'? If you don't look it up on YouTube. Can you listen out for hard? • Can you find any beds or chairs in your house that are hard or not hard? • take it in turns to be blindfolded. Get the person who cannot see to sit on objects that are hard and not hard. Can they say which ones are hard?

Learning the word **between**

Introduce the word	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a picture of the word between on page 8. Look at the picture together. Talk about the picture. Can you think of action that you can do with your hands to show between? Can you and your child say the word between together? Sing the word song. You can use the sheet on page 9 or you can sing along to a version on line. Search for 'YouTube Word Aware Rap'. It starts 'Oh ah say the word' then you have to say between.
Concept cat story	<p>Things you need: Concept Cat toy, toy people ('Teddy' and 'Dolly') and small toy furniture (or the toys can sit on the floor).</p> <p>Concept Cat is a clever, clever cat. He looks here, he looks there, learning as he goes and, when he comes home, he tells us a story. Concept Cat is a clever, clever cat.</p> <p>This story is all about between. Listen out for the word between. One day, Concept Cat was watching television with his friends Teddy and Dolly.</p> <p>Teddy says, 'Come and sit between us.' Concept Cat does not know what between means. He will need to find out about between. He sits down (next to the toys). 'No, that is not between. Come and sit between us.' Concept Cat moves. (He sits on the other side.) 'No, that is not between. Come and sit between us.' Concept Cat moves again. (He now sits in front.) 'No, that is not between. Come and sit between us.' Concept Cat moves. (He is now between.) 'Great, now you are sitting between me and Dolly. You are between us,' says Teddy.</p> <p>Concept Cat, what a clever, clever cat. He knows all about between.</p>
More activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put a chair next to the bed. Put a toy between the chair and the bed. Let Concept Cat have a turn. If he makes mistakes, help him to find between. If there are 3 or more of you in the family get everyone to line up. Ask 'Who is between?' You can always get a toy to help if there is only 2 of you. Give the picture of between to person who is between. Change the children round. Ask 'Who is between now?' Place some interesting objects between books on a shelf. Find the things that are between the books. Put four pieces of fruit in a line (eg apple, banana, orange, grape). Ask which one is between the apple and the orange, etc. When you are watching TV together, talk about squeezing up between family members on the sofa.

Learning the word **some**

Introduce the word	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a picture of the word some on page 8. Look at the picture together. Talk about the picture. • Can you think of action that you can do with your hands to show some? • Can you and your child say the word some together? • Sing the word song. You can use the sheet on page 9 or you can sing along to a version on line. Search for 'YouTube Word Aware Rap'. It starts 'Oh ah say the word' then you have to say some.
Concept cat story	<p>Things you need: Concept Cat toy, sweets, grapes and raisins.</p> <p>Concept Cat is a clever, clever cat. He looks here, he looks there, learning as he goes and, when he comes home, he tells us a story. Concept Cat is a clever, clever cat.</p> <p>This story is all about some. Listen out for the word some.</p> <p>Concept Cat likes sweets. Mum said he could have some sweets. (Concept Cat takes many sweets.) Mum says, 'That's not some sweets.' (Concept Cat puts all of the sweets back. Then he takes one sweet.) Mum says, 'That's not some sweets. You can have some sweets. I will give you some sweets.' (Adult gives some.) 'Now you have some sweets.' Now Concept Cat knows some. He can take some grapes. (Take some grapes.) Now he can take some raisins. (Take some raisins.) Concept Cat now has some sweets, some grapes and some raisins. Concept Cat, what a clever, clever cat. He knows all about some.</p>
More activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give everyone a bowl (other children or teddies can join in. Give out some dried pasta. Talk about who has some. You could do the same with pens. • At dinner talk about who has some drink or food and who does not have some. • Share a banana, a cake or a sandwich, having some each.

Learning the word **old**

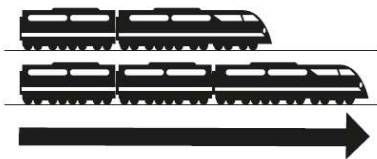
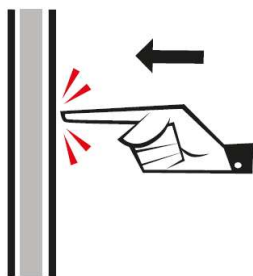
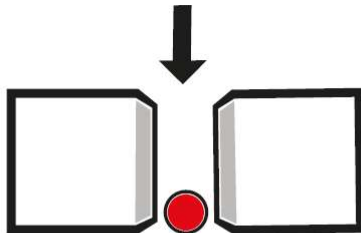
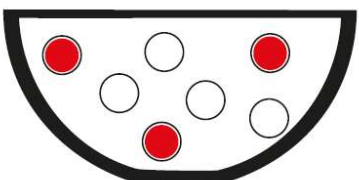

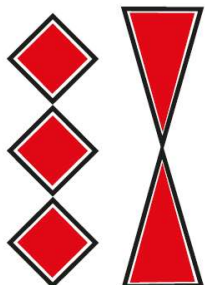
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Introduce the word	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a picture of the word old on page 8. Look at the picture together. Talk about the picture. Can you think of action that you can do with your hands to show old? Can you and your child say the word old together? Sing the word song. You can use the sheet on page 9 or you can sing along to a version on line. Search for 'YouTube Word Aware Rap'. It starts 'Oh ah say the word' then you have to say old.
Concept cat story	<p>Things you need: Concept Cat toy, an old jumper, an old doll, an old toy and a mobile phone (which is not old).</p> <p>Concept Cat is a clever, clever cat. He looks here, he looks there, learning as he goes and, when he comes home, he tells us a story. Concept Cat is a clever, clever cat.</p> <p>This story is all about old. Listen out for the word old.</p> <p>One day, Concept Cat was at his grandparents' house. He looked in a box and found lots of old things. Concept Cat found an old jumper. Granny made the old jumper for Mum. Concept Cat found an old doll. The old doll was a little bit broken. Then he found an old toy. The toy looked really old. 'But look, there's something else in here. It's Mum's phone. That's not old.'</p> <p>The jumper was old. The doll was old. The toy was old. The phone was not old.</p> <p>Concept Cat, what a clever, clever cat. He knows all about old.</p>
More activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect some things and talk about which ones are old and not old. Look at photographs of people or look at magazines. Talk about who is old and not old. Look around the house and find things that are old. Talk about how the objects look. Look in the child's toys. Are they any that are old or not old? Talk to an old person about their childhood.

Learning the word **different**

Introduce the word	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a picture of the word different on page 8. Look at the picture together. Talk about the picture. • Can you think of action that you can do with your hands to show different? • Can you and your child say the word different together? • Sing the word song. You can use the sheet on page 9 or you can sing along to a version on line. Search for 'YouTube Word Aware Rap'. It starts 'Oh ah say the word' then you have to say different.
Concept cat story	<p>Things you need: Concept Cat toy and four coloured pens, three of which should be red (or any colour you have 3 of).</p> <p>Concept Cat is a clever, clever cat. He looks here, he looks there, learning as he goes and, when he comes home, he tells us a story. Concept Cat is a clever, clever cat.</p> <p>This story is all about different. Listen out for the word different. Concept Cat wants to draw a picture. He has a red pen. 'I want a different pen.'</p> <p>He finds another pen. Is that different? No. He finds another pen. Is that different? No. Then he finds another pen. That is different. These two pens are different.</p> <p>This pen was not different. This pen was not different. This pen was different.</p> <p>Concept Cat, what a clever, clever cat. He knows all about different.</p>
More activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at everyone's eyes. Does anyone have different colour eyes? • Sorting socks with a difference: When you have done the washing put all the socks on the table. Can you make up pairs of different socks? It could be funny but not very useful. When you have finished can you make the pairs not different so you can actually wear them! • Play 'Snap!' slowly and talk about when the cards are different. 'Snap!' when they are not different.

Word Aware Level 2 concepts

	
Long	Hard
	
Between	Some
	
Old	Different

Word Rap



Oh ah, say the word



Oh ah, clap the word



Oh ah, act the word



Oh ah, shout the word



Oh ah, whisper the word

Yes!