

Speech and Language Activity Ideas from iCAN

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Home-based activities for primary school-aged children

Hide and Seek - a listening game for children

Hide some objects/written words/pictures around the house. Depending on how many children are at home, they can work together, or play individually. Ask your child/ren to find one object/word/picture. When found, talk together about what it is and what it's for. For example, "That's a spatula, we use that for mixing and scraping the bowl when we are baking". If there's a few of you playing, you could take turns to each say something you can think of about the object before hunting for another one.

A picture tells a thousand words

Interesting or unusual pictures can really get children's imagination going. [TES](https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/50-perfectly-timed-photos-6340307#)
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has some images here which could be used. Alternatively, use a family photo album, take some from a magazine or display some via your phone or laptop.

Here are some ideas about how you might use images to encourage speaking and listening activities at home.

I spy

Look at the picture/photo/image and encourage your child/ren to talk about the people, places, landmarks and events they can identify from the picture. If you are looking after more than one child at home, they can work together to do this. You could even ask them to explain which are their favourites and why.

What happened next?

If you are using images which depict an event, tell your child you are going to use the picture to make up a story together. You can start off by saying a sentence about the picture to start the story (using a traditional story beginning like, "One day..."), then help your child to think about what might happen next. Take turns adding an idea each until you have a complete story – you could even write it down and then illustrate the story together afterwards.

Some of these [TES](https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/50-perfectly-timed-photos-6340307#) photos are ideal for creative story time, for example, the images that show: the woman about to fall into the swimming pool, the stolen ice cream, the cyclist.