

Teaching describing words

Adjectives i.e. describing words, can be used to describe a person, character, animal, place or object, for example:

Person/character: friendly, kind, mean, naughty, happy, curly/straight hair, tall/short, old/young

Animal: fluffy, cute, pretty, spikey, slimy, soft, sharp, scary, fast/slow

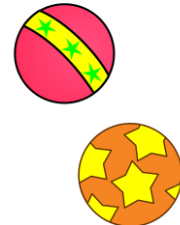
Object: round, square, shiny, big/small, stripy, spotty, hard/soft, smooth/rough

Place: dark, busy, quiet, fun, boring, beautiful, famous, haunted

Game ideas:

I spy: Play a variation of the tradition game, whereby you and your child take it in turns to describe something you can see e.g. “I spy with my little eye something that is pretty, pink and it grows in the garden”.

Feely bag: Find a variety of different objects and look at them with your child and come up together with as many describing words as you can. Then put the objects into a bag or pillowcase, take it in turns to feel an object in the bag, describe what it feels like and guess what it might be.



Shopping Game: The adult starts by choosing an item and saying, “I went to the shops and I bought a ball”. Encourage your child to add a descriptive word e.g. “I went to the shops and I bought a stripy ball”, and then the next one might be “I went to the shops and I bought a green, stripy ball”. Keep going until you can’t think of anymore describing words, then start again with a different item.

What am I?: Have pictures of different animals or use a box of toy animals. Choose a toy and then describe it your child and see if they can guess what it is, then encourage your child to have a go. They might benefit from the adult asking specific questions e.g. ‘what colour is it?’, ‘is it friendly or scary?’.