



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta | National
Síceolaíochta Oideachais | Educational
Psychological Service

Activities to Develop Receptive Language and Comprehension Skills

Primary 7 years+



This NEPS Good Practice Guide was developed by educational psychologists. It is based on current knowledge in this area. It is intended as a guide only. Not all the suggestions here will apply to any one student or situation.

Introduction

The 15 activities in this resource pack are intended to be used by teachers and/ or parents to help develop the language skills of children, typically those in the age range 7 -12 years. They can be used with individuals, small groups or whole classes. They typically do not require any additional equipment or resources. We expect that these activities will be of particular use to children receiving School Support or School Support Plus.

There are two other NEPS Good Practice Guides focusing on language skills:

- **Activities to Develop Expressive Language Skills**

(typically for children aged 7-12 years)

- **Language Group Activities**

(typically for children aged 4-10 years and those at early stages of language development)

Activity 1. Sequencing oneself by age in a line with classmates.

Children line up in the room according to their age. Children need to discuss birth dates with each other. Have the oldest person line up first. Children will know they are in the right place when everyone in front of them is older than they are and everyone behind them is younger.



Activity 2. Following direction when facts about oneself are mentioned.

1. Pretend to be asleep, if you ate Weetabix this morning.
2. Wiggle your nose and touch your left ear, if your family has a pet.
3. Touch the toes of your right foot three times, if you have brothers or sisters.
4. Tiptoe to the front of the room and then hop back to your place, if you went to this school last year.
5. Do two jumping jacks and then hold out both hands if you live in _____.
6. Shake hands with someone if you are left-handed.
7. Rub your stomach, touch your right ear and then pat your head four times if you brought your lunch to school today.
8. Stamp your foot the same number of times as your age and then say 'happy birthday', if your birthday is during the summer.
9. Pat your head three times, touch your left ear, and then touch your right ear if you have lived in the same place all your life.
10. Whistle three times and then cover your mouth with one hand, if you can whistle.
11. Stand on one leg if there are twins in your family.
12. Put your hand on your head if your shoes are black.
13. Open your shoe laces and push down your socks if you have curly hair.
14. Turn around and quack three times with your hands on your head if you support Manchester United.
15. Take a bow if you're wearing a uniform.
16. If you have black hair, clap three times.
17. If you have short hair, stand behind your chair.
18. If you're wearing a nose ring, cover your face.
19. If your first name starts with an A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H or I, wave your hands in the air.
20. If you are wearing a watch. Tell your partner the time.

Activity 3. Following, directions that require the substitution of the name of a body part for a rhyming word.

1. Touch your partner's *bed* with your left hand. (head)
2. Touch your *check* and then your partner's *rose*. (neck, nose or toes)
3. Touch your partner's *ships*. (hips or lips)
4. Tap your partner's *pin* three times. (chin or shin)
5. Close *your pies*, open them again, and touch your partner's *ned*. (eyes; head)
6. Touch your partner's *year* and then your own *seal*. (ear; heel)
7. Touch your partner's *week* with your *land*. (cheek; hand)
8. Show your *wreath* to your partner. (teeth)
9. Show your partner your *list* and your *rose*. (fist or wrist; nose)
10. Touch your partner's *tree* and *care*. (knee; hair)
11. Scratch your *fear* with your *tail*. (ear; nail)
12. Hold your *tin* with your *sand*. (chin, hand)
13. Bite your *rung* with your *sheet*. (tongue, teeth)
14. Tap your *tee* with your *list*. (knee; fist)
15. Raise your *grands* above your *bed*. (hands, head)
16. Put your *list* below your *fin*. (wrist, chin)
17. Move your peg up and down. (leg)
18. Put your *sand* on your *lace*. (hand, face)
19. Touch your see with you *beer*. (knee, ear)
20. Put your *plum* in your *south*. (thumb, mouth)

Activity 4. Miming a favourite activity for others to identify.



Activity 5. Rapidly naming one number in response to a given direction

- | | | |
|-----|------------|---|
| 1. | 3-10-7-4 | Tell me the third number |
| 2. | 6-1-7-2 | Tell me the largest number |
| 3. | 3-2-1-5 | Tell me the even number |
| 4. | 4-9-6-10 | Tell me the number between 9 and 10 |
| 5. | 2-4-8-10 | Tell me the missing number |
| 6. | 2-1-4-10 | Tell me the odd number |
| 7. | 9-7-5-3 | Tell me the next number |
| 8. | 6-1-9-3 | Tell me the last number |
| 9. | 9-1-7-6 | Tell me the first number |
| 10. | 8-1-6-5 | Tell me the second last number |
| 11. | 10-3-1-5 | Tell me the first number |
| 12. | 6-1-5-2 | Tell me the largest number |
| 13. | 1-2-4-5 | Tell me the missing number |
| 14. | 2-1-4-10 | Tell me the odd number |
| 15. | 4-7-6-1 | Tell me the number between 7 and 1 |
| 16. | 2-10-3 | Tell me the largest even number |
| 17. | 5-9-4-8 | Tell me the third number |
| 18. | 1-2-3-5 | Tell me the number not in place |
| 19. | 1-3-5-7-10 | Tell me the number that does not belong |
| 20. | 4-9-6-0 | Tell me the second number |

Activity 6. In a series of three words, naming the one that is different.

1. farm, form, farm
2. part, part, port
3. score, score, scar
4. hard, hard, heard
5. are, are, our
6. your, you, you
7. knife, life, knife
8. each, beach, each
9. ash, ash, trash
10. drench, drench, wrench
11. night fright, fright
12. pear, peer, pear
13. drink, drink, sink
14. big, big, pig
15. green, green, been
16. pole, hole, hole
17. too, too, loo
18. car, star, car
19. lamp, stamp, stamp
20. pool, tool, pool



Activity 7. Riddles

1. I have 88 keys, some black, some white, but don't try to lift me I'm not very light (piano)
2. Black and white and read all over (newspaper)
3. What gets wetter as it dries (towel)
4. Two hands but can't write (clock)
5. This is a word that rhymes with cat; it goes on your head because I'm a (hat)
6. What has more teeth than you but can't bite (comb)
7. What goes over the water, under the water but never touches the water (an unlaidd egg)
8. This is a word that rhymes with bun. You feel warm when I shine because I'm the (sun)
9. This is a word that rhymes with bake. I'm delicious to eat because I'm a (cake)
10. This is a word which rhymes with smelly. I wobble and wobble because I'm a (Jelly).
11. This is a word which rhymes with fog. I bark and I growl because I'm a (dog)
12. You'll find us near ponds or sitting on logs. We jump and we croak because we are (frogs).
13. This is a word which rhymes with coat. I sail on the sea because I'm a (boat).
14. This is a word which rhymes with up. You can drink out of me because I'm a (cup)
15. This is a word which rhymes with meat.; You use me for walking because I'm your (feet).
16. This is a word which rhymes with pear. I grow on your head because I'm your (hair).
17. This is a word which rhymes with spoon. I shine brightly at night because I'm the (moon).
18. When you bang me hard I go rumpa - turn - turn. I'm played in a band because I'm a (drum)
19. This is a word that rhymes with toes; you use me to smell because I'm your (nose)
20. I'm useful for journeys when you're going far, but I need lots of petrol because I am a (car)

Activity 8. Unscrambling jumbled sentences

1. my forgot I lunch
2. called out referee The time
3. O'Brien her is Mr. teacher
4. dog has My legs four
5. breakfast made I my quickly
6. chair Sit on your
7. teacher no The said talking
8. 80 granny is My
9. man I that like
10. three table the on There cups are
12. chips you, Do, rice or want.
13. me your homework see Let
- 14 in front The is window of the sink
15. football field large has school The a
16. dropped The teddy the bear baby
17. river into The fox jumped the
18. ground the Mary on fell her knee and cut
19. near a lake was donkey The
20. smashing is this school think I

Activity 9. Listening to four words and identifying their common sound.

1. girl, leg, smog, gun (g sound)
2. think; nothing, both, thank (th sound)
3. raining, singing, playing, eating (ing sound)
4. peach., teacher, cheese, church (ch sound)
5. wanted, edge, education incredible (ed sound)
6. laugh, level, value, yell (l sound)
7. zero, surprise, lazy, as (z sound)
8. hit, hang, house, handle (h sound)
9. dangerous, food, daisy, dip (d sound)
10. share, crashing, wash, ship (sh sound)
11. bus, sock, bicycle, cigar (s Sound)
12. laugh, giraffe, faraway, face (f Sound)
13. pilot, apple, lipstick, poor (p sound)
14. able, rabbit, dab, baby (b sound)
15. call, ache, castle, rack (k sound)
16. ten, enter, send, leg (e sound)
17. rage, jar, engine, gymnastics (g sound)
18. yummy, make, animal, dumb (m sound)
19. rapid, ponder, ape, dip (p sound)
20. stamp, last, faster, pester (st sound)

Activity 10. Identifying the word in a series that does not belong and telling why.

1. Salmon, chair, mackerel, trout
2. Ten, nine, eight, seven, three
3. Pencil, newspaper, book, magazine
4. Oak, beech, chestnut, daffodil
5. Jumper, trousers, vest, shirt
6. Runners, sneakers, trainers, shoes
7. October, November, December, April
8. Yoghurt, milk, beef, cheese
9. Angry, furious, happy, livid
10. Marathon, Champion, Poundworld, Lifestyle
11. Brother, cousin, sister, sibling
12. Roald Dahl, Charles Dickens, Michael Jackson, RL Stine.
13. Cork, Kilkenny, Belfast, Galway.
14. story, pen, novel, essay.
15. pleasant, harmful, evil, nasty
16. 222, 334, 555, 777,
17. biscuits, tea, coffee, milk
18. Jack, Mary, Jane, Ann
19. raven, eagle, wasp, robin
20. Burgerking, McDonalds, Eason, Abracababra
21. apple, onion, strawberry, orange
22. stamp, address, sellotape, envelope
23. cardigan, tie, pyjamas, shirt

Activity 11. Items that come next in a sequence.

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|------------|
| 1. | Saturday, Sunday, Monday | (Tuesday). |
| 2. | 28, 24, 20 | (16.) |
| 3. | Second, minute, hour..... | (day) |
| 4. | February, March, April ... | (May) |
| 5. | e, f, g, h..... | (I) |
| 6. | Autumn, winter, spring | .(summer) |
| 7. | 5c, 10c, 20c..... | .(50c) |
| 8. | shoulder, elbow, wrist.... | .(knuckle) |
| 9. | m, l ,k ,j | (i) |
| 10. | 8, 6, 4..... | (2) |
| 11. | 1, 3, 5, 7 | (9) |
| 12. | hip, thigh, knee, shin,.... | (ankle) |
| 13. | roots, trunk, branches ... | (leaves) |
| 14. | June, May, April | (march) |
| 15. | blue, black, blue, brown... | ... (blue) |



- | | | |
|-----|--|-------------|
| 16. | 1 o'clock, 5 past 2, 10 past 3..... | (15 past 4) |
| 17. | John, 2, Peter, 2, Sarah..... | (2) |
| 18. | Bop, A, Bop, E, Bop I, Bop, O, Bop | (U) |
| 19. | Tuesday, Monday, Sunday..... | (Saturday) |
| 20. | March, May, July, September..... | (November) |

Activity 12. Naming words which are opposite and using them in sentences

1. The dragon looks happysad
2. Today is a cold day warm
3. The paint is white black
4. good bad
5. fast..... slow
6. big.....small
7. large..... little
8. oftenseldom
9. purchase.....sell
10. private..... public
11. addsubtract
12. vacant..... engaged
13. lost.....found
14. enter.....exit
15. rich..... poor
15. sleep wake
17. tall small
18. loud quiet
19. smooth rough
20. accept refuse
21. longshort
22. tame.....wild
23. intelligent stupid
24. fat..... thin.

Activity 13. Number sequences

If a number is more than 20 clap your hands.

If a number is less than 20 tap your foot.

1. 12- 29 - 32 (tap, clap, clap)
2. 100-120- 2- 18 (clap, clap, tap, tap)
3. 18- 24- 28 (tap, clap, clap)
4. 21- 86- 3 (clap, clap, tap)
5. 4- 5- 7 (tap, tap, tap)
6. 31- 2- 32 (clap, tap, clap)
7. 14- 15- 20- 102 (tap, tap, clap, clap)
8. 4- 19- 18- 21 (tap, tap, tap, clap)
9. 16- 44- 2- 1 (tap, clap, tap, tap)
10. 3 -27- 2- 4 (tap, clap, tap, tap)
11. 4- 21 (tap, clap)
12. 6- 3 (tap, tap)
13. 18- 24 (tap, clap)
14. 7- 9 (tap, tap)
15. 18- 21- 22- 6 (tap, clap, clap, tap)
16. 19-18- 3- 14 (tap, tap, tap, tap)
17. 27- 26- 31- 45 (clap, clap, clap, clap)
18. 44- 94- 7- 26 (clap, clap, tap, clap)
19. 7- 8- 2-16 (tap, tap, tap, tap)
20. 3-107- 81-21 (tap. clap, clap, clap)

Give rhythm and ask children to suggest number

Activity 14. Remembering and stating words missing from a sentence.

Teacher says sentence then repeats sentence omitting BOLD word, the child is to give the omitted word.

1. Throw the **soccer** ball back. *Throw theball back.*
2. He was absent because he was **quite** ill.
3. Put the **small** book back in the library.
4. He ate the **ripe** banana at lunchtime.
5. She fell on the **muddy** ground and cut her knee.
6. Peter walked **slowly** to the school as he had no homework done.
7. Andrew told his mam he wanted a **sizzling** sausage for his tea.
8. Emer bought a tall doll in the toyshop yesterday.
9. I watched a **silly** TV programme last night.
10. The boy wrote an **interesting** essay for the competition.
11. Amanda screamed as she watched the **horror** film on Tuesday.
12. The **chocolate** biscuits vanished from the tin.
13. The room was full of **sick** people.
14. The muddy river overflowed onto the **narrow** footpath.
15. The **heavy** rain continued to pour down on the young children.
16. A **small** bicycle was the cause of the accident.
17. We heard **funny** noises in the dark cave.
18. I don't like that slow **creepy** music.
19. Right after my ninth birthday, I'm going to a **football** match.

Activity 15. When you hear...

Stand up when you hear the name of....

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| A. | something shiny | fling, ding, ring, sling |
| B. | a pop group | scones, bones, rolling stones, cones |
| C. | a TV programme | The Den, ten, Ben, men |

Tap your head when you hear:

- | | | |
|----|---------------|-----------------------------|
| A. | a colour | too, blue, stew, grew |
| B. | a subject | rats, cats, maths, flats |
| C. | a make of car | poured, sword, bored, Ford. |

Shake your arms when you hear

- | | | |
|----|--------------|----------------------------|
| A. | a drink | smoke, coke, broke, awoke, |
| B. | a food | cake, rake, bake, lake |
| C. | a profession | curse, nurse, purse |

Cover your eyes when you hear

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A. | a football player | rigs, bigs, jigs, Giggs, figs |
| B. | something made from glass | bottle, skittle, rattle, thistle |
| C. | something you can wear | shirt, Bert, skirt, flirt, |