Useful websites:

https://www.royalwolverhampton.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Receptive-Language.pdf

https://speechandlanguage.link/parent-portal/language-activities/

https://www.sltforkids.co.uk/speech-clinic/speech-language-and-communication-problems-we-help/receptive-language-difficulties/

https://www.bell-foundation.org.uk/resources/great-ideas/barrier-games/

Supportive resources & activities:

- Creating barrier games using Lego, drawing, colouring.
- Building a Lego model together following the instructions.
- Playing games around the house such as 'hide and seek' or 'warmer colder' with added narration.
- Playing with toys that contain different concepts such as big/little, directions, shapes, colours to develop a firm understanding of this vocabulary.

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RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE

A guide for parents

What is receptive language?

Receptive Language refers to a person's ability to understand the words that are spoken to them

A Little More Information

Receptive language skills enable a person to understand and comprehend information that is said to them or that they have read. It is typical for children to firstly develop their receptive language skills before being able to use this language in an expressive way by talking. It may mean for some children who have a receptive language difference that they also have an expressive language difference. Children who have differences with their receptive language abilities may struggle to:

- Understand and follow instructions.
- Answer questions.
- Understand gestures.
- Identify objects or pictures.
- Understand stories.

Ways to support at home

Begin by creating an environment where there is always time to talk, without time constraints. Often questions can be a useful tool to help children to talk, however this will be challenging for a child with receptive language difficulties in their ability to understand what is being asked of them. A far more effective strategy is to comment about a subject as this invites a child to respond without the demand.

Reading children books is a great way to model and expose your child to more language. Taking time to explore the pictures too enables a child to gain a greater understanding of the meaning behind different words.

Playing listening games at home such as 'Simon says' is also supportive of developing understanding of spoken language.

Adding supportive gestures as you talk or simple pictures gives your child another cue into what is being said to support understanding and meaning.

Make the most of different times that you can talk to your child such as in the car on the way to school or at dinner times as you sit around the table. Ensure these moments are pressure free without heavy use of questions.

Dependent upon your child's level of receptive language it may be necessary to offer further supports for example, offer a choice with an object cue or visual support "Did you want to play with the Lego or the cars?"
You can also offer communication supports such as an aided language display or a device so their understanding of what you've said is supported by a picture clue.