

PWS and Communication

HAYLEY ARNOTT : SPEECH-LANGUAGE
THERAPIST



Session Overview

- ❑ A word about infant feeding.
- ❑ Early Language development
- ❑ Augmentative Alternative communication (AAC)
- ❑ Speech clarity
 - ❑ Childhood Apraxia of Speech
 - ❑ Speech sound disorders
- ❑ Social language skills
- ❑ Narrative intervention

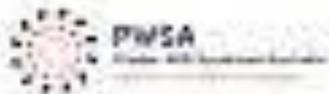




Infant Feeding



BREASTFEEDING YOUR BABY WITH
PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME



SPEECH VS. LANGUAGE

Speech

HOW WE SAY
SOUNDS AND WORDS
WHEN SPEAKING

Language

HOW WE USE AND
UNDERSTAND WORDS &
SYMBOLS TO
COMMUNICATE



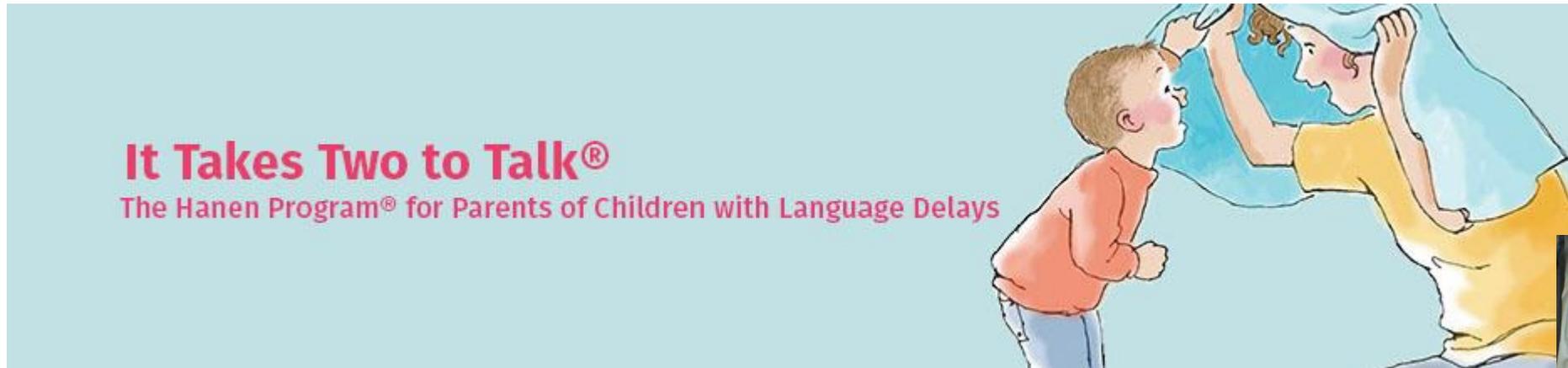
Early Language Development

- Receptive language comes first – understanding messages from language.
- Context supports understanding – eye contact, facial expression, gesture.
- Language development is usually delayed, and there is great variability between individuals.
- Speech disorders (such as Childhood Apraxia of Speech) will also impact expressive language development.
- Parents and carers have an important role in language development

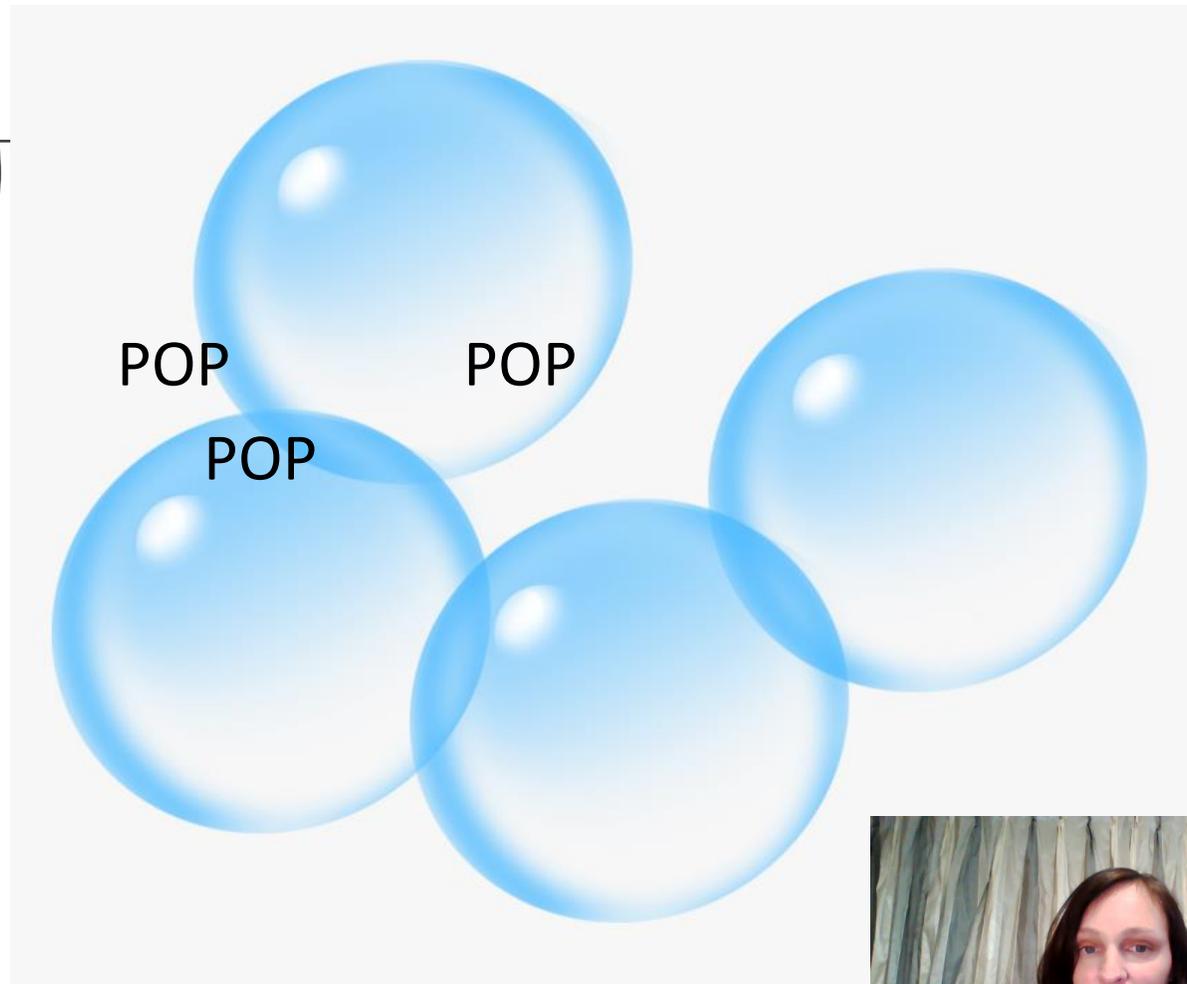


Top Tips for Parents – Early years

- Infants – sing, talk and read to your baby. Face to face time. Respond positively to every sound, facial expression. Imitate their noises and actions. Cuddle, rock, “comfort” your baby.
- 1-2 years – Talk, and have conversations with your child. Encourage sound play and imitation.
- Hanen It Takes Two to Talk



Josie's Silly Sounds Story





makeameme.org



Wheeeeeeee!



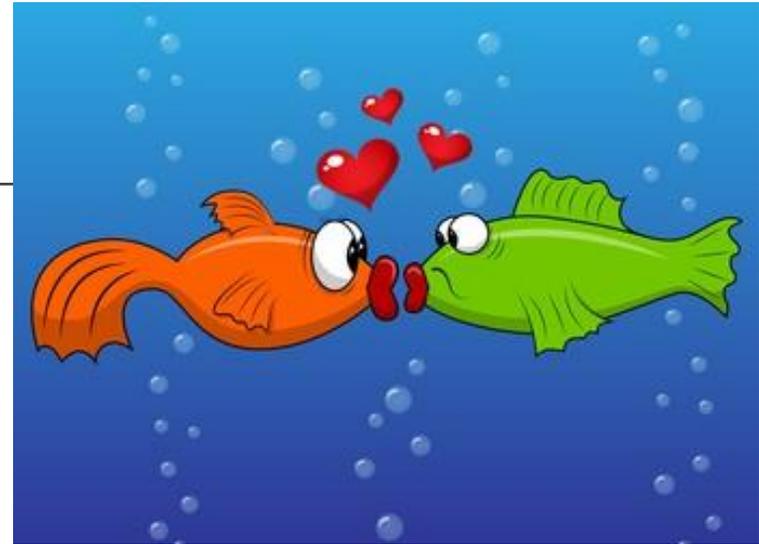
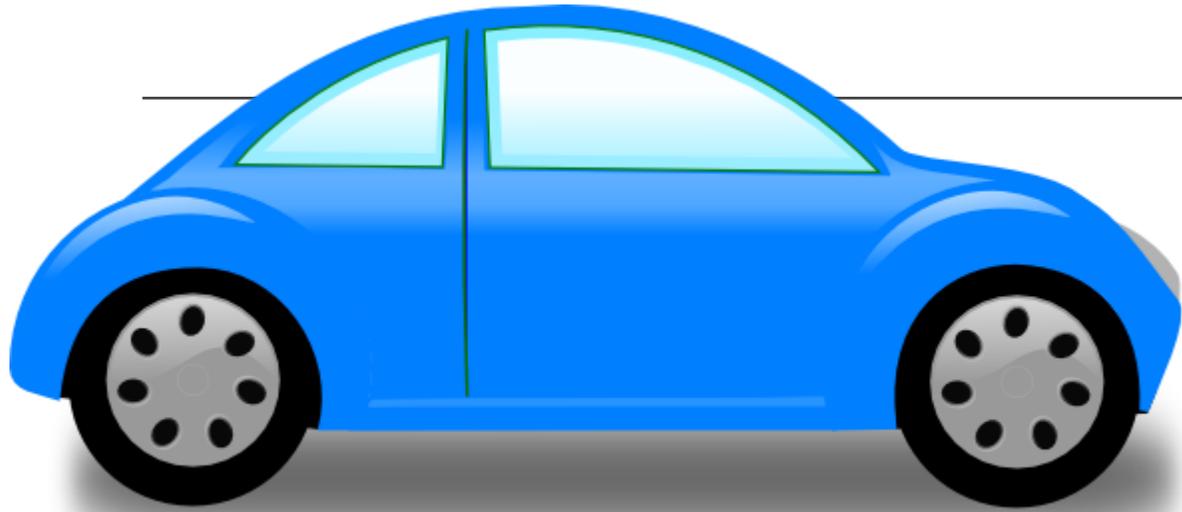


Boom! Bang! Crash!



Mmm!!





Brrrrrrrm!!

:kiss



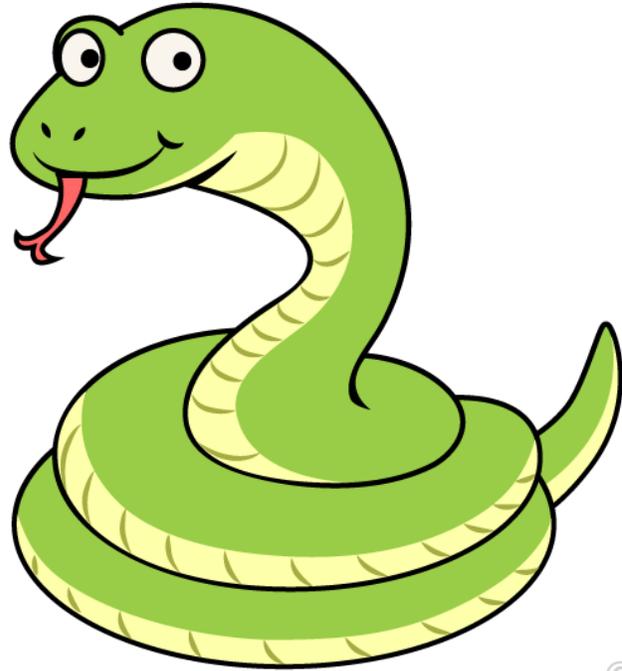


Blow out the candles!!



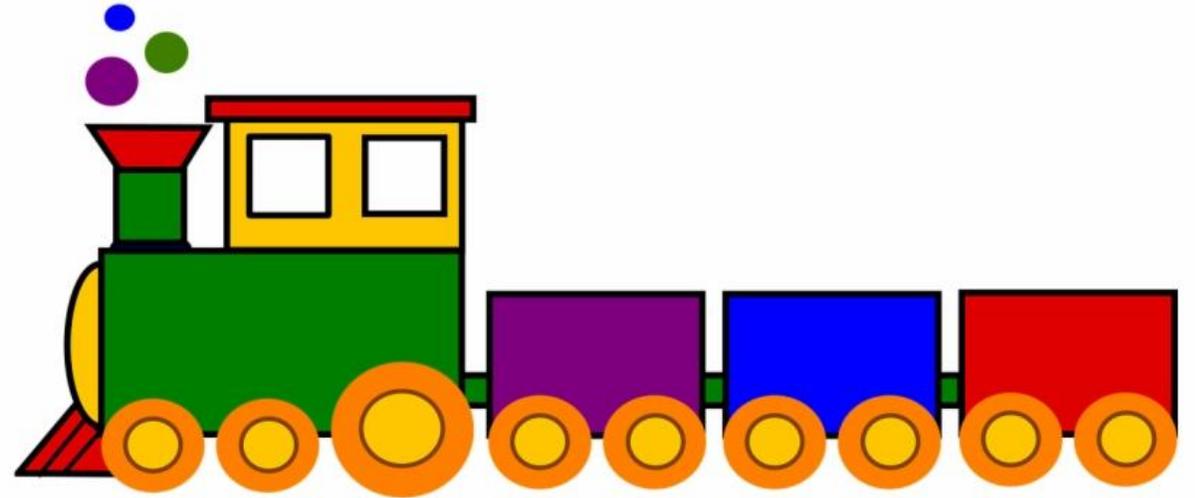
Shhh!





© dak

SSSSSS



Choochoo!





Meow!



Awww!



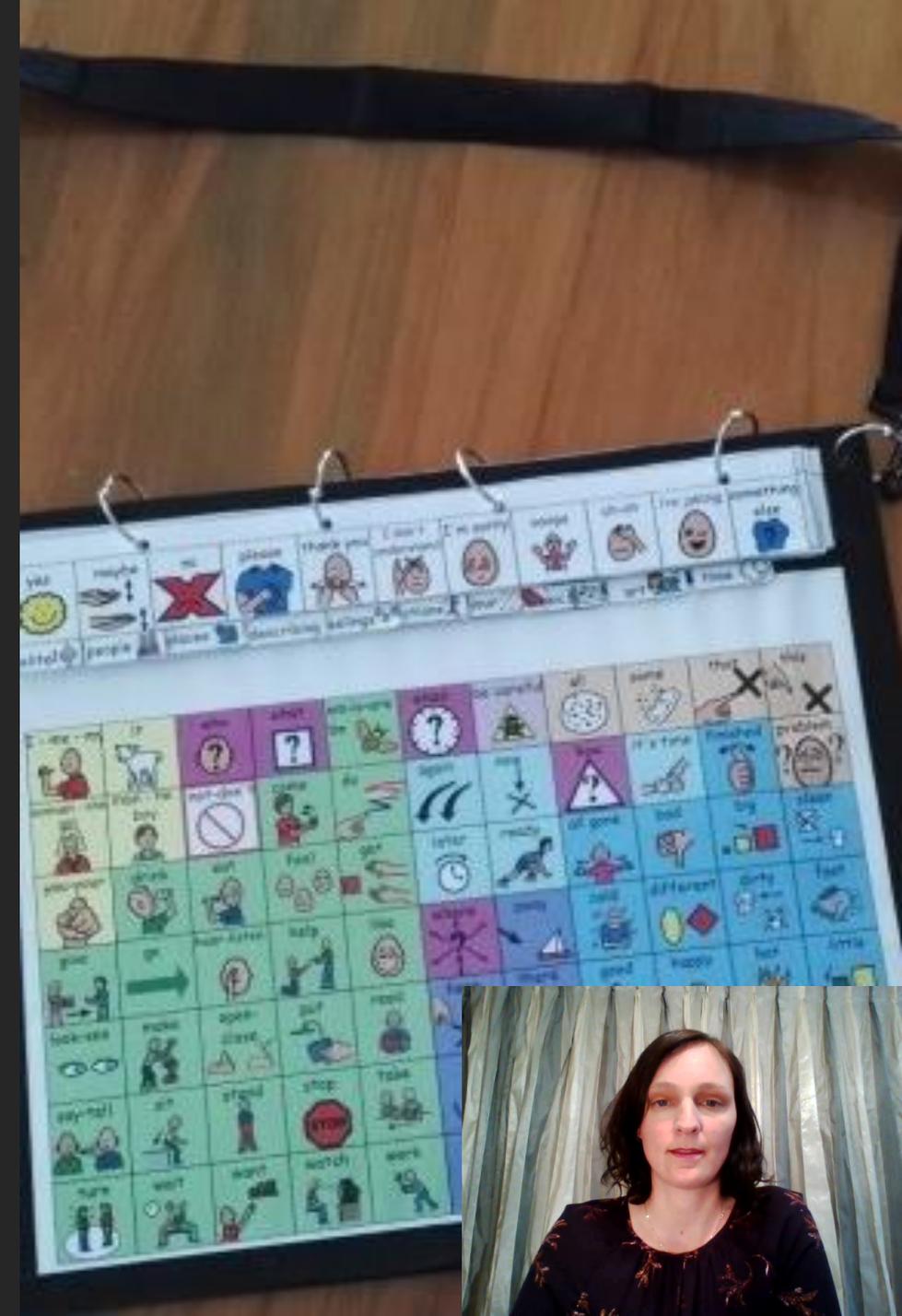
Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

Useful when the child is either not talking yet or if their speech is very difficult to understand.

Can help develop expressive language skills.

Examples:

- Sign language/makaton,
- Communication books or symbol boards.
- Communication devices or apps.





Speech Clarity

Low muscle tone affects speech muscles too, but it's not just about the muscles!

- Childhood Apraxia of Speech
- Phonological delays and disorders
- Articulation disorders and imprecise pronunciation



Childhood Apraxia of Speech

- Miller and Plager (2014) found a 47% prevalence in a group of 30 children aged 22months-9years with PWS that presented with communication difficulties.
- PWS Global registry reports 45% of parents of children over 12months report a formal diagnosis of CAS.
- A speech motor-planning disorder.
- Affects precision, consistency and coordination of speech motor movements.
- Affects both speech clarity and prosody (intonation).
- Can cause significant expressive language delay.



Childhood Apraxia of Speech

- Diagnosed by a qualified speech-language therapist.
- There are several different treatment approaches. Important components of effective treatment are (from Child Apraxia Treatment website, 2020):
 - Frequent and intensive practise
 - Focus on movement (not sounds specifically)
 - Multi-sensory input
 - Specific types of practise and feedback
 - Focus on prosody



CAS – Common Treatment Approaches

Rapid Syllable
Transition
Treatment (ReST)

Dynamic, Tactile
and Temporal
Cueing (DTTC)

Nuffield Dyspraxia
Programme – third
edition (NDP-3)

Integrated
Phonological
Awareness
training (IPA)

Prompts for
Restructuring Oral
Muscular Phonetic
Targets (PROMPT)



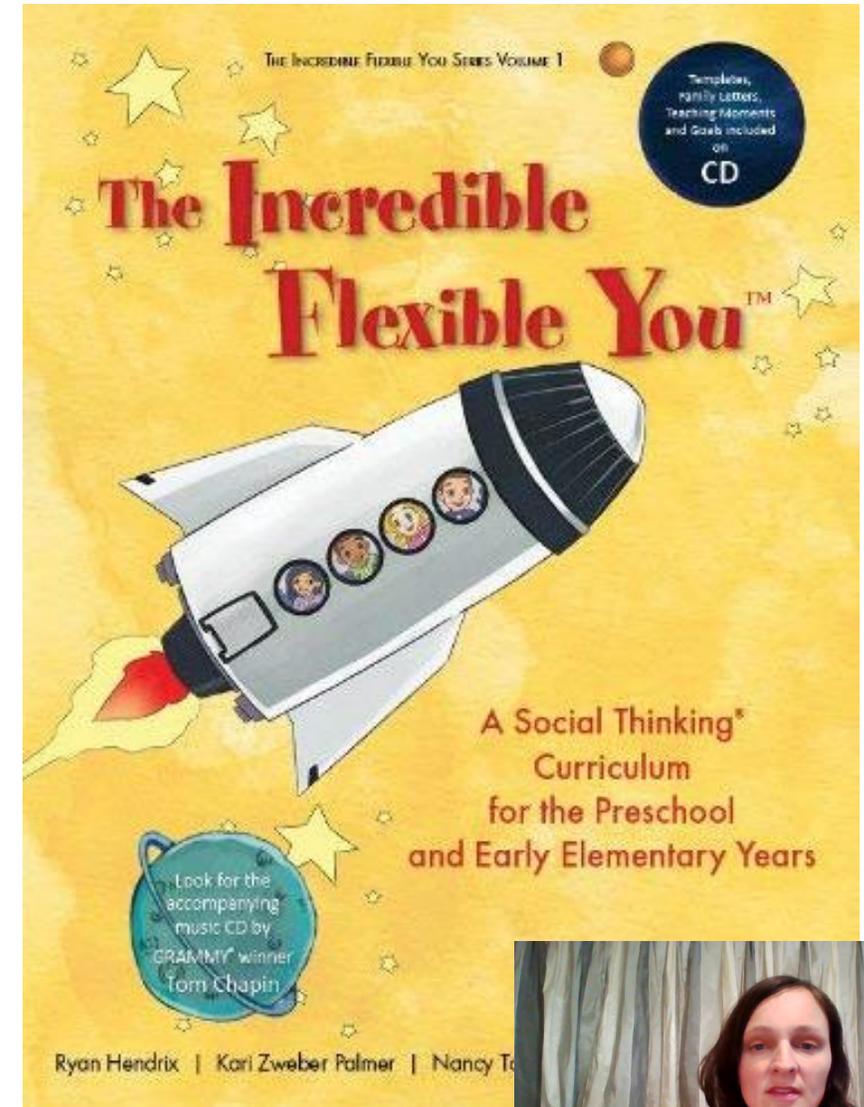
Speech Sound Intervention

- Before your child is even talking you can encourage sound play, speech sounds in isolation, but not at the expense of language enrichment!
- Can involve phonology and/or articulation – consider target selection as well as treatment approach.
- Age to introduce formal speech sound intervention will vary between children. Consider:
 - Is it hindering expressive language development?
 - The attention level of the child/readiness for therapy.
 - The parent/carer's availability for practise.



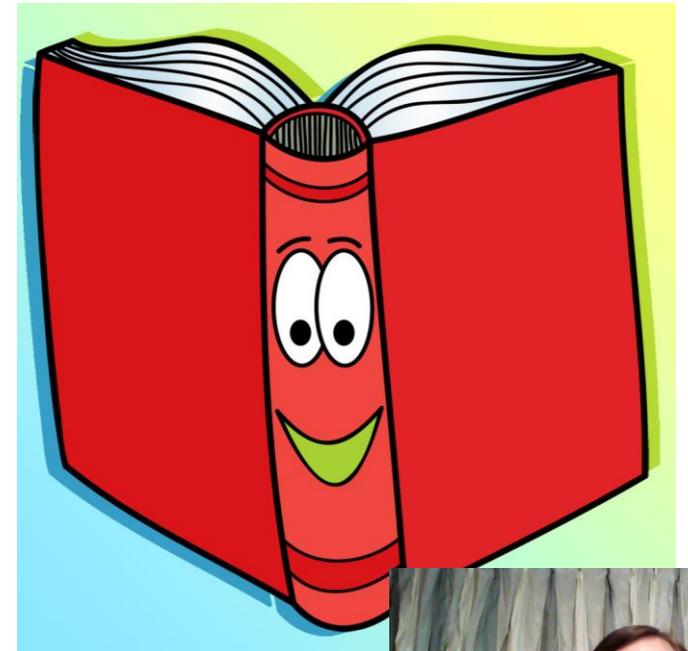
Social Communication Skills

- Talk about emotions, practise recognising them and talk about why!
- Turn-taking – Start young! Conversation skills.
- Listening/not interrupting. Taking an interest in others.
- Personal space.
- www.socialthinking.com
- We thinkers – Social explorers and Social Problem Solvers



Narrative (storytelling) Skills

- Narrative language is more complex than conversation, and is generally impaired in children with PWS.
- A child's narrative skills play an important role in academic achievement.
- Narrative intervention targets both comprehension and expression, vocab and grammar.
- Basic elements of a story – character, problem, feelings, action, ending.
- Basic structure of intervention – Tell the story, unpack the story, child retells the story. Discussion. Check out “Story Champs” on youtube.



References

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Speech and Language Disorders Associated with Prader-Willi Syndrome. Barbara A Lewis, 2006





Questions!

