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Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale

Education Committee

**6.10 Learning to remember and then say the**

**names of three things**

**Why is this important?  
Verbal understanding can be likened to a ‘list’ of things that need to be  
remembered in order to carry out a task. If, for example, a three-word  
instruction is given (e.g. ‘Wash doll’s face’), the child has to remember  
‘wash’, ‘doll’ and ‘face’. If he/she can’t do this, it may be that auditory  
memory is not yet sufficiently developed.**

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What to do  
• Gather together a selection of pictures of everyday things.**

**These could be cards or cut out from magazines.  
• Place a few cards (i.e. four) face-down on the table.  
• Choose three cards but don’t show them to the child.  
• Look at the cards and say what they  
are (e.g. ‘I’ve got a hat, a cup and a pencil’). Ask:  
★ ‘Can you remember what cards I’ve got?’  
• If the child is right, show your cards and reinforce:  
★ ‘Well done! A hat, a cup and a pencil!’  
• If the child finds it difficult or remembers only one or two items,  
repeat what cards you have, emphasising the key words**

**(e.g. ‘I’ve got hat, cup and pencil’).  
• Try the activity with some action pictures (e.g. ‘doll is sitting’, ‘boy  
jumping bed’). Can the child copy these three-word phrases?**