








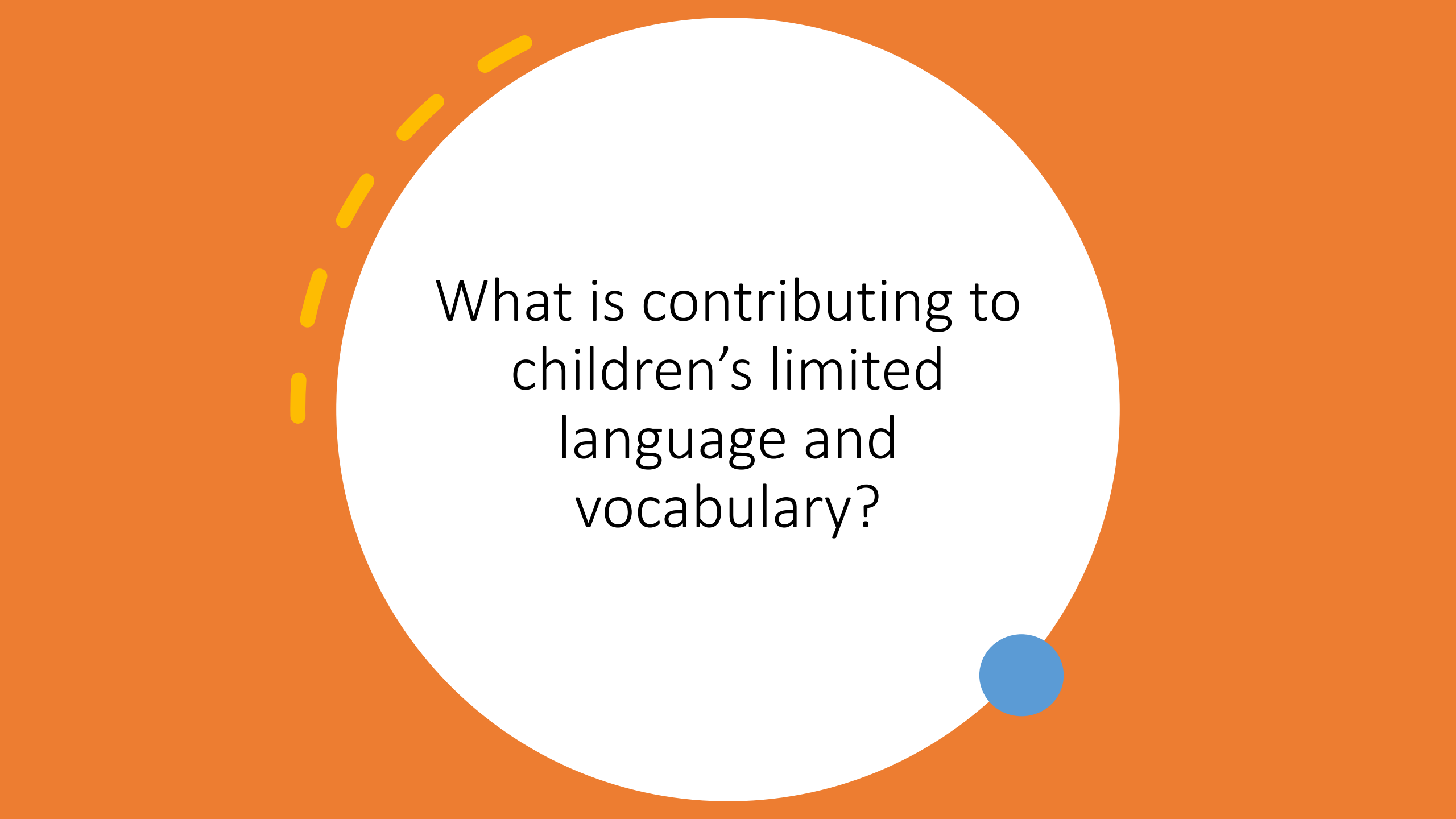
Vocabulary

SDP priority

A whole school approach to language acquisition

Sabrina Pierson & Andeep Bansal

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- Without the right support, children with challenges in talking and understanding the world face huge hurdles in learning to read, write, as well as in other subjects. They will also face difficulties in making friends, staying in good mental health and in future getting and holding down jobs.
 - Children who struggle to talk and understand words are:
 - 6 times more likely to fail English tests at age 11
 - 11 times less likely to pass maths
 - Twice as likely to have a mental health problem
 - Twice as likely to be unemployed as an adult
 - Supporting children with speech and language challenges should be as much as a priority as literacy and numeracy.
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What is contributing to
children's limited
language and
vocabulary?

It is not just words...



experiences




conversations



Modern Technology



What are we currently doing to support children's vocabulary?

- Word of the week
 - Vocabulary on display
 - Spelling work
 - Reading and story time
 - Wizard words fortnightly, in assemblies, in newsletter and displayed
 - Speech and language interventions- colourful semantics
 - Structured talk- talk partners, role play, hot seating
 - Providing practical experiences
 - Use of quality texts
 - Phonics
 - Clubs
 - Reviewing new vocabulary on a regular basis
- 

Our whole school approach-
What is word aware?

Word Aware

Effective word learners

1. Get excited about words
2. Teach words
3. Independent word learning

Whole school approach supported by families



Word aware

STAR approach

- Select
- Teach
- Activate
- Review

Modified from Blachowicz and Fisher (2015)

STAR Topic: any subject with a prescribed vocabulary





Word aware:
 STAR SELECT
 Tier 1 Anchor
 Tier 2 Goldilocks
 Tier 3 Step on

STAR Select - primary



Anchor words	Goldilocks words	Step on words
<p>Children have a thorough understanding of these words.</p> <p>Everyday spoken and written language for a child of this age.</p> <p>Used at home and in daily interactions.</p> <p>Children have become familiar with this vocabulary through prior teaching.</p>	<p>Really useful words</p> <p>Likely to be encountered again in reading or oral language.</p> <p>Average adult has a good level of knowledge of the word.</p> <p>Words that are very topic specific but are core to the topic.</p> <p>Age 7+: Desirable for children to use in their writing</p>	<p>Less likely to be encountered again in reading or oral language.</p> <p>Average adult does not have much knowledge of the word.</p> <p>Words that are particularly topic specific, and are not core to the topic.</p> <p>Age 7+: Not a word that children usually need to use in their own writing</p>




Based on Stahl and Nagy (2005), Beck, McKeown and Kucan (2002)



Word aware grids in class

Year 1- spring term –

Are humans more dangerous than animals?

 Tier 1	 Tier 2	 Tier 3
Anchor words	Goldilocks words	Step on words
Animal Humans Dangerous Hunt Living Food Plants Meat Pets Fish Birds	Kingdom Carnivores Omnivores Herbivores Habitat Food chain Diet Environment Survive	Adapted Suited Amphibians Reptiles Mammals Captive Extraordinary Remarkable

Vocabulary game

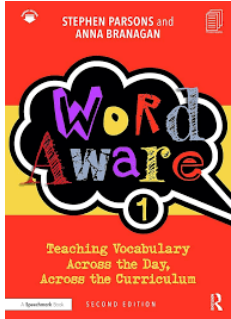
Articulate

Select a card, do not show it to your partner or team.

Describe what is written on your card without saying the word.

helicopter





Vocabulary game

What can it do?

Pick one of the words below. Can you think of 5 things that it can do or that can be done with it? For example, **tree**: climb, chop, grow, fall down and absorb carbon dioxide.

apple	baby	ball	bread	chalk
giraffe	leaf	lion	lollipop stick	paper
paperclip	pencil	penguin	rubber band	stick
tree	your foot	your hand	cat	flour
flower	hair	water	air	spoon

Practical ideas and games

Character slinky

Cut a piece of card into quarters. Then fold the card in concertina style (like a fan). Open out the card so that there are now spaces to write. Add the words to describe the character. Attach head, arms and legs to the folded card.



Thanks to Miss Hurren & P5B

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/553309504214726571/>

Get excited about words



1. Spin a letter
2. Spin a category
3. Type in 5 words starting with that letter in that category. Only press return when you have 5.



wheeldecide.com

Chat

Photo challenges



Take a photo that shows the word 'quirky'



Other words you could use:

- hollow
- dilapidated
- frail
- colossal
- euphoric

Compare photos and make displays

Vocabulators



Inspired by Melissa Forney via www.pinterest.com/pin/111041947034190821/



Pitmaston school

Dressing up as a favourite word



Think of an interesting word and then a simple costume which shows the meaning of a word. How could you dress up as one of these words?

- flourish
- sly
- tranquil
- haphazard
- fuming
- blend

Chat

Alternative dress up days: make hats or tabards in school.

In the manner of the adverb...



Talk to someone on the phone

Swim

Have a wash

1. Wearily
2. Timidly
3. Frantically

4. Angrily
5. Joyously
6. Dramatically



Nash (ed) 2013

Hink Pink



All of the answers consist of two rhyming words with equal number of syllables.

- Hink pink
What do you call a miserable father?
- Hink pink
What do you call a young person running free?
- Hink pink
What do you call an incorrect tune?
- Hink pink
What do you call a nice gift?
- Hink pink
What do you call a mad flower?
- Hink pink
What do you call a distant vehicle?

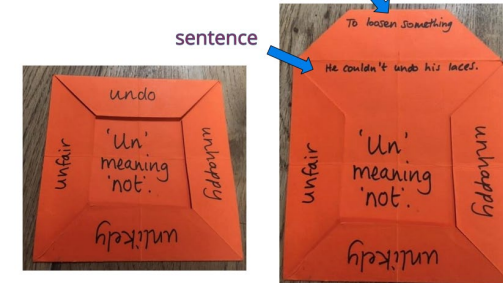
Chat



3. Prefixes

definition

sentence



www.pinterest.com/pin/55330950418888110/

So many ways to talk



Say 'I want a cup of tea' in the manner of

- Mumble
- Rasp
- Exclaim
- Huff
- Moan
- Question
- Sob

Can others guess?



Read new words

Write new words

Improve vocabulary

Synonyms

Read, Read, Read!

Sharing books together is the most powerful way for children to learn about vocabulary, spelling, grammar and punctuation. Spot new words when you are reading together and discuss their meanings. If you can, make links between the new words and others which may have the same root, for example real and reality.

Play Word Games

Traditional word games are fantastic ways to build up your child's vocabulary, allowing them to discuss the meaning and spelling of new words they encounter while playing.

Not Just ... But ...

Think of something to describe, such as the weather or feelings. Try to improve your original adjective each time you say a sentence, for example, 'It's not just cold outside, it's freezing.' Or, 'I'm not just feeling happy today, I'm ecstatic.'

Draw the Word

Pick a new word your child is learning and roll a dice. Have different commands for each different number rolled, for example:

1. write the word with their eyes closed;
2. write the word as fast as they can;
3. write the word in a pyramid shape;
4. write the word upside down;
5. write the word in rainbow colours;
6. write the word in their best handwriting.

Summer Term 2024 – Vocabulary Day

- Vocabulary Day will be on **Friday 7th June**
- Children and staff to dress up as their favourite word and be able to discuss it - information will be sent home for parents and carers to support their children. A great opportunity to get creative!

