5 June 2020

PSRIP Foundation Phase
COVID-19 MESSAGING

Good day **Foundation Phase PSRIP** colleagues,

Children's comprehension and critical thinking skills develop from a very young age. Essentially, these skills are about children's observations and experiences, and how they understand and think about these observations and experiences.

With young children, much of this learning takes place in the home language. But it is important to remember that skills and concepts are transferable across languages. So, whilst children might be learning new things in their home language, it is a good idea to equip them with some new English vocabulary that relates to what they are learning.

So how do we go about this?

Firstly, familiarize yourself with a useful methodology to teach vocabulary, called PATS.
Use as many of the following strategies as possible to explain the meaning of a word. Not all strategies are appropriate for every word.
- P – Point at the real object or picture
- A – Act out the word
- T – Tell children the meaning of the word (this may involve code switching)
- S – Say the word in a sentence

Secondly, visual resources can provide opportunities to use the vocabulary in context. A visual resource could be:
- A photograph, picture or poster
- A book illustration
- A TV programme
- A YouTube video
- A real-life scene

Play a game to see who can use the word correctly the most times. A child must encounter a new word between 10 - 20 times in order to learn it.
Play this game as follows:
- Take a piece of paper and write the new word at the top of the page.
- Then, draw a table with your name in the first column, and the child's name in the second column.
- Every time you use the word correctly in context, put a tick under your name.
- Every time the child uses the word correctly in context, place a tick in that column.
- At the end of the week, see who has used the word more often!

Please consider making vocabulary development part of your daily practice.

Best wishes,
The NECT and DBE Team