

## **Video Commentary**

This video shows Zoe, a teaching assistant, working with Kadie-Mae, a five year old pupil who is achieving at about p-level 4 for speaking and listening. Kadie-Mae is epileptic and quite unsteady at times, hence the helmet she wears.

Work with Kadie-Mae is beginning to focus on understanding of simple sentence structures at a 'two word level'. Kadie-Mae has to listen carefully to the instructions she is given and must recognise two specific words in order to respond correctly. In play, she has learned to do simple actions such as wash, brush and drink. Zoe was aiming to check Kadie-Mae's understanding at the two word level in relation to 'action + object' (i.e. making an object – here teddy or dolly – act in a specific way or doing a particular action to the object).

Zoe makes the important point that the rest of the staff in the classroom need to be aware of Kadie-Mae's level of understanding, so that they can incorporate opportunities for reinforcing understanding at that level into general learning activities.

We should also add that teddy bears and dolls may engage Kadie-Mae but other children may want to use dinosaurs or models of cartoon characters.