

Video Commentary

This video shows Zoe, a teaching assistant, working with Zoe, a five year old pupil who is achieving at about p-level 4 for speaking and listening. The focus of much language and development work is upon teaching Zoe the understanding of simple sentence structures at a 'two word level'. Zoe has to listen carefully to the instructions she is given and must recognise two specific words in order to respond correctly.

Zoe already understands words for a range of items that are familiar to her and which are used in these activities. Also, she has the skills to interpret what she sees in pictures and can recognise familiar objects in pictures. The teacher was aiming to check Zoe's understanding at the two word level in relation to 'object + place' (i.e. placing a particular object in a particular location) and 'action + object' (i.e. making an object – here teddy or dolly – act in a specific way).

Although this is an assessment situation, note the teacher's use of praise and general encouragement to motivate Zoe. Zoe's behaviour towards the end of the video clip suggests that she finds the use of pictures either more difficult or less motivating than play with actual objects. Note the careful placing of the four pictures and their content.