**Subject – Verb- Object sentences**

Subject-verb-object (SVO) sentences are a good way of developing expressive language skills. The subject (who is doing it) is followed by the verb (what they’re doing) and then the object (what they are doing it to). For example, “The boy (S) is kicking (V) the ball (O)”, “The dog is drinking the water”, “The elephant is washing the car”.

**Activities to support SVO sentences.** Think about **who?**

* Look at photographs and talk about the people/animals in them e.g. family, friends, pets.
* Read books and talk about the characters.
* Play with small figures in a dolls house or animals on a farm/zoo, talk about ‘Who is in the…bathroom?’ ‘Who’s in the pond?’ Etc.
* Look at pictures of animals; ask ‘Who says… roarrr / baa baa / moo etc..?’

**Develop action words and vocabulary**

**Teach** action words using toys to carry out different actions. You can also talk about what characters are doing in books or on television programmes.

**Build vocabulary** by looking at books and objects in the world around you – naming them and talking about them can be really useful. Put them into SVO sentences, for example “the car is driving on the road” and so on.

**Practise SVO sentences with toys**

Use a selection of toys e.g. teddy, doll, sponge, ball, car, book, toy food. Adult carries out demonstration/play with toys e.g. teddy kicking the ball, teddy reading the book, doll eating the apple, doll washing the car.

Model SVO sentences to the child and support the child to say what’s happening. If the child uses just 1-2 words, add 1-2 words to their phrase and repeat this back for them to hear e.g. Child: “Teddy kick”, Adult: “yes, teddy’s kicking ball”. If the child struggles to say anything, provide the words for them to hear.

**Stories**

Share simple stories and talk about what the characters are doing.