

## **Activities to Enhance Word-Finding**

### **1. Scrabble**

- This can help with word-retrieval as well as spelling

### **2. 20 Questions**

- One person chooses a word
- The other person is allowed 20 questions to help uncover the information and guess the word
- Possible question topics include
  - o Category – is it...food, clothing, movie, person?
  - o Function – what is it used for?
  - o Attributes – what...colour, shape, texture, size...is it?
  - o Associates – what things are associated with it?

#### **Rationale**

- Description is an effective strategy for relaying information about a forgotten word. It helps you communicate your message to your conversation partner.
- This activity will provide you with practice identifying which information is useful when describing.
- This activity may also strengthen the recall of frequently used words.

### **3. Guess Who?**

- A children's game.
- Each person asks questions about the others' appearance in order to determine his/her identity.

#### **Rationale**

- Description is an effective strategy for relaying information about a forgotten word. It helps you communicate your message to your conversation partner.
- This activity will provide you with practice identifying which information is useful when describing.

#### **4. Crosswords**

- Purchase a book of crosswords

*(Make sure that they are within your skill level! This is important, and you should always start off easier than harder)*

##### Rationale

- Crossword puzzles offer clues to the target word.
- This activity will provide practice identifying words from their clues and can help with word recall.
- The clues are descriptive and description is an effective communication strategy.

#### **5. Word webbing**

- Choose a word and write it in the middle of a page
- Write four words related to the original word
- Continue this process with each of the new words until the page is full.

##### Rationale

- This activity allows you to practice generating similar words.
- Using similar words (e.g. like muskrat for beaver) is an effective strategy in relaying information about a forgotten word

#### **6. Scategories**

- A game you can purchase or make on your own
- You are given a letter and a list of categories, and must think of one word for each category beginning with that letter.

##### Rationale

- This game provides practice generating words from a "sound" clue (i.e. "it starts with...")
- Identifying which sound the words starts with can assist you to produce the word. It can also help your conversation partner "guess" the right word.
- This activity may also strengthen your word recall.

## **7. Write the shopping list**

- Write out items that you need to buy from the grocery store.
- Put the categories or sections of the store where you might find the items, with the list of those items needed below.

### Rationale

- This activity may strengthen the recall of frequently used words.

## **8. Complete a “book of memories”**

- Make a book where you add photographs and fill in the blanks with appropriate information.

### Rationale

- This activity may strengthen the recall of frequently used words

## **9. Taboo**

- One player picks a word and then gives clues that help the other person guess what it is

### Rationale

- This activity allows you to practice word associations

## **10. Reading and Discussion**

- Read an article in a magazine or newspaper
- Discuss what you have read with a conversation partner

### Rationale

- Having the article as a discussion piece can provide context and assist when there is a communication breakdown, since both people have the same point of reference.

## **11. Discussion**

- Discuss some local events or news events that are of interest.
- Use whatever props are necessary to aid communication (e.g. writing key words, newspaper article as reference, pictures, etc.)

### Rationale

- This can keep conversations varied and interesting, even when a communication difficulty is present.
- Can aid in a feeling of connectedness.
- When successful use of strategies is used, can make subsequent conversation attempts, less intimidating.

## **12. Thesaurus/Dictionary**

- Use these books as therapy tools.
- Thesaurus – pick a word and try to think of other words that mean the same thing without looking at words in the book.
- Dictionary – pick a word and try to define it without looking at the definition in the book.

### Rationale

- This can help with learning associated words which can help when you have forgotten a word.
- This can also help with learning how to describe a word, which is a useful strategy and can help your conversation partner “guess” the word.

## **13. Toastmasters**

- Join a local Toastmasters group.

### Rationale

- This can help with your confidence with public speaking
- It can be a more challenging way to work on word-retrieval skills and strategies.
- The group of people are typically quite supportive.