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Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale

Education Committee

**6.3 Understanding the negative form**

**Why is this important?  
Children begin to understand negatives with ‘no’ and ‘not’ and then  
progress to understanding the reduced form (e.g. ‘isn’t’, ‘can’t’ and ‘don’t’).**

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What to do  
• Gather together some pictures of children doing various actions  
(e.g. climbing, running, jumping, eating).  
• Put out two pictures and ask:  
★ ‘Who isn’t eating?’  
• When the child points to the right picture,**

**reinforce this by repeating the sentence:  
★ ‘Well done. He isn’t eating. He’s climbing.’  
• Have another go with two new pictures.**

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