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Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale

Education Committee

**4.8 Adding ‘ing’ to describe an action**

**Why is this important?  
The present tense ‘ing’ is used following an action word to describe  
something that is happening now (e.g. ‘boy running’, ‘girl hopping’).**

**This is important for the development of grammatical skills.**

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What to do  
• Look at books together and talk about what people, animals, etc. are doing.  
• Use phrases to help, e.g.  
★ ‘That boy is running, what about him, he’s …’  
• Offer choices: ‘Is the boy running or walking?’  
• If the child responds correctly, praise and repeat the sentence back, e.g.  
★ ‘Well done, the boy is walking.’  
• If the child responds incorrectly (e.g. says ‘boy walk’), do the following:  
★ Praise for trying.  
★ Repeat the sentence emphasising the missed element**

**(e.g. ‘Boy walking. Can you tell me what the boy is doing?’).  
• Talk about what toys are doing during play and give choices relating to the child’s play, e.g.  
★ Child playing with cars: ‘Is the car driving or walking down the road?’  
★ Child playing in home corner: ‘Is teddy sleeping or washing?’**