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Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale

Education Committee

**9.8 Using category names and explaining the differences between things in the same category/finding the odd one out**

**Why is this important?  
As language skills develop, children learn to be able to identify and explain  
increasingly more subtle differences between things.**

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What to do  
• Gather together some pictures/objects from a variety of categories (e.g.  
clothes, food, toys, furniture, transport, animals).  
• Choose three pictures/objects from the same category (e.g. three animals). Two  
of the animals must have something in common and one must be different  
(e.g. horse, cow, fish).  
• Put out these three pictures. Ask which group all the pictures belong to. If this  
is difficult, offer a choice ‘Are these clothes or animals?’  
• Ask which two pictures go together best (e.g. horse and cow).  
• Ask why: there could be several reasons**

**(e.g. four legs, farm animals, live in fields).  
• Ask what’s different about the other animal (e.g. fish).**