

# USING YOUR PIRATE PUPPET!

**Your pirate puppet can be used in any way that you choose, however here are some suggestions for developing language.**

The first step is to name your pirate and then to create his character. Will he be gruff, friendly or shy?

## NEW WORDS TO LEARN:

There are words to learn associated with our pirate. Remember that learning new words is best done when we relate words to a child's own life and own experiences. Explore the following words...

**MOUSTACHE:** - do you know anyone who has a moustache? - who can usually grow a moustache? (kids? women?) - how is a moustache different to a beard?

**VELVET:** - velvet is a special material - is it soft or rough? - who else might wear velvet (a queen?)

**HOOK:** - where else do you see hooks (coat hangers, fish hooks, on the end of Occy straps), why would the pirate need a hook where his hand used to be?

**PATCH:** -how would you feel if you put a patch over your eye? - when else would you use a patch (a patch on a hole in your pants, a patch on a tyre puncture) - some dogs are called Patch. Why might this be? - what is another meaning for the word "patch" (a patch of grass, a sunny patch, patch up a hole...)

**BOOT:** - do you have any boots? - how are boots different to shoes? - what are some other meanings for the word "boot" (boot of a car, boot a ball, boot someone out...)

## A STORY TO TELL:

Have the children listen to the pirate tell his story... and then see if they can answer when you ask questions about the story. The pirate will nod if you are right...

### **Pirate:**

*Well hello children, my name is Jock the Pirate. I usually live on my ship , sailing around the world looking for treasure, but sometimes I like to come to see kids like you. I bet you'd like to know about the sort of treasure I've found? I've found lots of gold and heaps of silver and once I even found a giant sparkling diamond. It was as big as a watermelon and worth more than a million dollars!*

*But being a pirate isn't always easy. You might notice that I am missing some of my bodyparts. My poor leg was cut off in a sword fight and I now I've got a wooden leg instead. Not long after, my eye was poked out by a fishing rod and now I have to wear this patch.*

*There's one more thing I'm missing and that's my pet bird. She usually sits on my shoulder but I left her behind today to look after my ship. Her name is Polly and she is a beautiful red parrot with long green tail feathers.... And guess what? She can TALK! She loves to copy things that I say. Sometimes I play a trick on her. I say "I'm a silly bird" and she copies , saying "I'm a silly bird..." It's pretty funny.*

*Anyway, that's enough about me. I want to know all about you...*

*(The pirate can then ask the children some questions... or you may wish to ask the questions over the page... Jock can "stand" to the side and nod when the children get the answers correct!)*



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## QUESTIONS:

Say to the children: I wonder if you can remember what Jock the Pirate just told you... I'll ask you some questions. See if you can answer. When you get the right answer, Jock will nod his head.

1. *Does Jock usually live on the land or on the sea?*
2. *Why does he sail around the world?*
3. *Can you name some of the treasure that he has found?*
4. *How big was the diamond that he found?*
5. *What bodyparts is Jock missing?*
6. *How did he lose his leg?*
7. *Jock has a wooden leg. What is a wooden leg made out of?*
8. *Why does Jock have to wear a patch?*
9. *What sort of pet does Jock have?*
10. *What is his pet's name?*
11. *Where does it like to sit?*
12. *What does the pet look like?*
13. *What does the pet LOVE to do?*
14. *Where is the pet right now?*
15. *Why do you think Jock now stays away from sword fights?*

## COPYING GAME:

After talking about the pirate's pet parrot and how it likes to copy, you can play the POLLY PARROT copying game. This is a good task for focusing attention on sentences and seeing the types that a particular child can copy. We can learn a lot from the types of sentences that a child can repeat. Difficulty repeating long but age-appropriate sentences is widely regarded as a potential marker for children with language impairment. It is thought that children can only repeat easily the type of sentences that they have mastered in their own spontaneous speech.

Have the pirate start with short sentences and gradually make them longer and more complex. Try keeping them related to the pirate theme.

Examples:

*I have a parrot.*

*I like to sail on the sea.*

*I have a big ship with huge yellow sails.*

*I search for treasure that has been buried in the sand.*

*Once I found an enormous diamond bigger than a house but I couldn't carry it back to the ship.*

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