Helping Your Child with Descriptive Writing in Year 2

Key points

- In Year 2, children learn to use 'expanded noun phrases' to make their writing more interesting.
- A noun is a naming word for a person, place, or thing, such as 'dog' or 'park'.
- An adjective is a describing word, such as 'muddy' or 'big', which gives more detail about the noun.
- An expanded noun phrase is created by adding adjectives to a noun, turning 'the dog' into 'the big, muddy dog'.
- Children may also add a short phrase to say where something is, like 'the muddy dog in the garden'.
- Every school teaches this slightly differently, so feel free to ask your child's teacher for their specific approach.

Things to try at home

- Play 'I Spy' using two describing words, such as 'I spy with my little eye something shiny and red'.
- While reading a bedtime story, pick a character and think of two new words to describe them.
- During a walk, spot an object and see if you can add a detail about where it is, like 'the green leaf on the pavement'.
- Describe your dinner using a fun adjective, such as 'crunchy carrots' or 'steamy rice'.

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher or the school's English lead.
- The official GOV.UK page for the National Curriculum in England.