

Ideas to encourage good Communication

- Pause after you have spoken to a child and count to 10 SILENTLY. This will allow time to process information
- Use positive statements – “walk please” or “good walking” instead of “don’t run.” It is often only the last word that children hear. “Use a fork please” instead of “don’t use your fingers.” You can then follow and praise e.g. “good eating.”
- Try to offer choices – e.g. “fish fingers or eggs” or “Bob the Builder or Postman Pat?” Giving them a choice will help them to learn the vocabulary and make it easier for them to understand
- Keep language simple and avoid explanations. Often children don’t understand, short simple directions are best. The more language we use the less likely children will understand
- If you are not sure what a child has said – repeat it back to them. Watch their facial expressions – you will soon see if you were right or not!
- Avoid correcting your child’s speech, instead model back correct pronunciation
- Avoid trying to make a child repeat anything – this won’t help them to learn language and will increase frustration – for both of you! Avoid saying “say
- Have fun with language – make up silly rhymes, sing songs, make sounds together. There is no substitute for interaction with another person