



How to help children understand....

- **Call the child's name** and / or touch them to gain their attention. Try to gain their eye contact and **get down to their level**.
- Use **short sentences** and **simple language**.
- **Break down instructions** into shorter chunks.
- Use **gesture, signing, pointing, objects, photos/pictures** to help the child understand what you are saying.
- **Avoid asking too many questions**; instead **comment** on what the child / you are doing during daily routines and play.
- Don't be afraid to **repeat** yourself again and again.
- Help children understand what is going to happen next by using a **visual timetable**. Alternatively you could just show them a single picture/photo before a change in activity.
- Encourage children to engage in **pretend and imaginary play**.
- **Continue to use their home language** (if this is not English). Even children with language difficulties will start to learn English from other settings.

You can help **build Attention and Listening skills** by:

- ✓ Playing "ready, steady, go" games
- ✓ Try using a timer (e.g. stop-watch or egg timer)
- ✓ Use a "now and next" board