

Communication:

Tips to Support Understanding

- Talk slowly and clearly.
- Use the child's name at the start of your instruction.
- Be at their eye level and maintain eye contact.
- Use hand gestures as you speak.
- Pause after speaking.
- After a pause repeat the message if necessary.
- Give one message at a time.
- Don't use manners eg please, thank you as it can confuse the message and take away its purpose.
- Use vocal inflection and a warm tone.
- Shorten and simplify your message e.g.:

Instead of:

Go and get your coat and put it on please

We are going to change your nappy now

Let's go to the play park

This room is a mess.
Please help me to tidy up

Say:

Coat on

Nappy on

Play park?

Tidy books

