

SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY CLASSROOM STRATEGIES FOR FOUNDATION STAGE AND KEY STAGE 1

Supporting speech and language difficulties in the classroom

- Use clear simple language – i.e. one key instruction at a time
- Using signs and gestures alongside your own talking, to help the child understand what you mean
- Make sure the child is looking at you when you are talking (i.e. face to face)
- You must sit them at the front during group or circle time
- Reduce background noise as much as possible to help them listen
- Keep questions simple, and related to what is in front of them
- Support the child in play, by commenting on what they are doing
- Use lots of repetitive naming and describing words to help develop vocabulary
- Structure opportunities to support interactions with other children, through regular small group work
- Use choice-making to include the child in circle time discussions
- Repeat back any unclear words to show you have understood, but do not put any pressure on the child to say the word again (unless advised by the therapist)
- If the child's speech is very unclear, you may need to think of other ways for them to show you what they mean. Talk to parents about setting up a home-school book so you have a reference point for discussions with the child

