

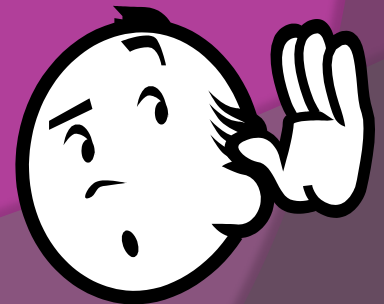
Ideas for Parents and  
Teachers

# **SPEAKING AND LISTENING**



# Attention and Listening

- Some children have difficulty understanding what is said to them. They may have difficulty keeping their mind focused on what you are saying (attention) or remembering all the details (memory); or understanding what you want them to do (processing). To help.....
- Give short, one step instructions, wait before giving the next step
- Use simple direct language
- Repeat the information, encourage them to ask you to repeat it



# Attention and Listening

- Explain again in different language
- Slow down your rate of speech
- Leave them plenty of thinking time to listen and understand
- Make sure it is quiet
- Say their name and wait for eye contact before speaking
- Don't get frustrated with them!



# Games to help Attention and Listening

- Listen to recordings of household items (vacuum) and guess what they are.
- Play sound bingo
- Go on a sound walk, what can you hear on your street, in your garden?
- Play “Simon says” or “Chinese Whispers”
- Share books and discuss
- Get child to relay messages
- Listen to instructions and colour/draw
- Play “20 Questions”
- Hot Seat characters from favourite stories/programmes/toys



# Receptive Language Tips

Receptive language is what we hear and understand. Some children find it difficult to take in and understand spoken information. You can help....

- Be aware that the child finds it hard
- Back up words with gestures or pictures
- Slow down your speech
- Give information in short chunks
- Use simple words
- Allow them more time to think



# Games for Improving Receptive Language

- Encourage conversation about anything
- Listen to story tapes – follow along with book
- Play “I spy”
- Play “robots” – follow instructions
- Talk about pictures/toys
- Describe objects – child guesses.
- Sing songs like, ten green bottles, 5 little ducks etc
- Listen and build with lego
- Tell “facts” – child says if true or false.



# Expressive Vocabulary

This is the language that a child use and produces. Some children can understand what is said to them but might find it hard to find the words to express what they want to say. Here are some ideas for developing expressive language...

- Read wordless books so they can make up their own story
- Talk about pictures/ view out of car window etc
- Feely bag – describe what they can feel inside without looking
- Describe an unseen object for them to draw
- Play “ I went to the shop and I bought...”
- Learn songs and nursery rhymes
- Use puppets, masks and costumes to promote talking
- Tell jokes
- Imaginary phone conversations



# Expressive Language

## General tips...

- Accept all language attempts
- Don't correct errors
- Don't interrupt
- Give full attention
- Give encouraging feedback
- Give vocabulary alternatives in your feedback
- Use open-ended questions





# Still concerned?....

- Contact your child's class teacher or the school SENCO.
- They can suggest more ways to help or may refer your child to a learning support services special teacher or a speech and language therapist if necessary.

