

Understanding Language

To help your child understand what you are saying:

- Use simple language.
- Use short sentences. Give one piece of information or instruction at a time.
- Pause. Give your child time to process what you have said.
- Show your child what you mean (as well as telling them). This may include:
 - Practical demonstrations/modelling what to do
 - Pointing and gesture
 - Pictures, photos and symbols
- Use lots and lots and lots of repetition to teach new words and concepts.
- Teach the same word in different situations. This will help your child to fully understand the meaning of the word. For example, show how the word 'brush' is used when brushing your hair, brushing your teeth, sweeping the floor and so on.
- Check your child has understood what you have said by asking them to tell you what they need to do in their own words. Be cautious of saying 'do you understand?' as they may say 'yes' and not realise they have forgotten or misunderstood part of the instruction.
- Make sure your child knows it is okay to say 'I don't understand' and ask questions. Give them lots of praise if they ask for an explanation or help.