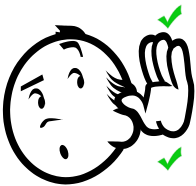


### Top Tips for helping understanding of spoken language

#### (School-age Children)



- ✓ Make sure the child is **paying attention** before you speak to them, You may need to say their name if you are talking to them in a group
- ✓ Keep you sentences **short** and use **simple** words. For example, instead of: 'Before you go back to class put away all the equipment and line up at the door', try: 'Sam' (wait until they are looking at you), 'put your hoops in the box' (point and wait). 'then line up at the door'.
- ✓ **Slow** your rate of speech slightly to help give processing time



- ✓ Use **gestures, pictures, objects** and **demonstration** when you are talking. This will help to keep the childs interest and support their understanding.
- ✓ Try to provide opportunities to **give information more than once**.
- ✓ If you are giving a sequence of instructions to follow, **pause** between each one to allow the child time to process everything they have heard.
- ✓ **Avoid** using sarcasm, idioms of confusing language.
- ✓ Think carefully about the **questions** you ask and how you ask them. Give direct instructions, for example, say: 'Tidy up now' rather than 'Can you tidy up now?' or 'Go and ask...' instead of 'Why don't you go and ask....?'
- ✓ Encourage the child to use **strategies to support their own understanding**:



- Repeat what they have been asked to do out loud
- Silently think about what they have been asked to do
- Pick out the important/key words in the instruction
  - Tell someone when they don't understand