

# Top Tips for Communication

## Talking to children

Use simple language – reduce your sentences.

Say the child's name first.

Speak at the child's level

Allow processing time and repeat an instruction if needed.



## Instructions

Use 1 step instructions

Be specific – tidy up the red car not tidy up.



## Visuals

Have a visual timetable in place, and separate ones broken down into steps where needed (e.g. washing hands, toileting, lunch routine)

Use visuals during each transition and when giving instructions.



## Adult led activities

Plan timetable carefully. Prepare for points of overwhelm by planning chill times/ areas.

Give them something tactile at group times if they struggle at attend

Consider their sensory differences for activities and planning

Use their interest to support their access to activities

Consider their attention and involvement abilities and plan which part of group time you'd like them to attend

At group times, sit them near the front so there is little distraction in front of them and the teacher can give direct instructions easily

