



Top Ten things to remember when working with children with SLCN who have trouble with understanding language

Every child with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) will have a unique pattern of strengths and weaknesses but there are some general ways to help.

Some strategies may be harder to implement in a busy classroom however, they may well benefit other children.

- 1 Encourage looking, listening and attending. Make it clear what this means they have to do so you know they are listening to you
- 2 Keep it simple and be careful not to assume the children know a word (Use easy vocabulary to start with and take time to teach words)
- 3 Use short sentences (Try not to use complicated grammar or phrases which could confuse, e.g. "cut that out")
- 4 Cue the children in with visual material (including signs, drawings, gestures, symbols and objects)
- 5 Chunk the information – a few sentences then a pause
- 6 Provide frameworks and other support to help them achieve
- 7 Give yourself time to listen to the children so they can tell you what they think – this helps you check they have understood
- 8 Make the ideas and stories come alive – using role play or acting out parts of stories supports understanding
- 9 Encourage the children to say when they do not understand – try to show them not tell them
- 10 Use a step by step approach with lots of opportunity for practice