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.