Comprehension strategies for the classroom

Environmental strategies.

→ Pair the child with a more able partner
→ Use visual materials, e.g. signs, symbols, logos, written instructions to help with structure and attention
→ Use prompt sheets with key words and symbols to help with independence and to clarify
→ Use a visual timetable to show what is happening and to notify changes of routine
→ Provide a task organiser using step by step prompts to help the child to complete the task

Comprehension strategies

→ Make use of tone of voice and intonation
→ Demonstrate what you mean
→ Use simple language and be specific
→ Give instructions one step at a time
→ Give instructions in chronological order
→ Tell and retell in simple terms
→ Check they have understood by asking them to confirm what you have asked them to do
→ Have a system where children know it is OK to say they do not understand
→ Allow time for the child to think and formulate an answer
→ Tell the children when you are changing activity
→ Adjust the vocabulary you use
→ Pre-teach hard or topic based vocabulary
→ Ask the children to summarise key points
→ Explain non-literal language
→ Give ‘signposts’ as you teach to focus the child to listen, eg, ‘This bit is hard, you need to listen’
→ Sum up information at the end of the lesson
→ Use a story or timeline or mind map to give a visual display of information in the correct order

Remember the rules for good listening