



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