

Activities to support Communication and Interaction

Listening Games/Activities (Receptive Language)

Games that promote listening require concentration to understand and retain information

- Send the child/young person to “take a message” to a family or staff member
- “I went to market” games
- Kim’s game
- Talking Partners
- Asking about the plot, or who said what after a favourite TV programme.
- Describe people you have just met
- Send the child/young person to fetch things from far away so they have to remember.

Speaking Games/Activities (Expressive Language)

- Barrier games
- Silly stories
- Talking Partners
- Narrative activities
- Mind map activities

Strategies to support speech sound production difficulties

- Ask the child to tell you another way or show you
- Ask questions around what the child is trying to say to gain more information e.g. did this happen at home or at school?
- Try to avoid asking questions which are open-ended and have no context such as “what did you do over the weekend?”
- If you do not understand all that a child has said, repeat back the sentence to the point where you got lost; it is less laborious for the child to repeat back a small chunk rather than the whole sentence.