

# HOW CAN WE HELP AT SCHOOL? KS1



## Social Interaction Skills

Every child responds differently in social situations depending on the development of their own skills, previous experiences and the skills of people around them. Try to use a child's own strengths and interests to engage them in an interaction and maintain their attention.

- Encourage the child to look at the listener or, if this is too uncomfortable, at a shared point of interest like a picture or object
- Model the use of facial expression and gesture to support the interaction
- Provide opportunities to practise turn taking within a small social skills group
- Prompt the child to stay on topic during conversations (e.g. "We're not talking about ... now, we are talking about ...")
- Encourage the child to reduce the amount of irrelevant/inappropriate comments/questions used during conversations (e.g. "Just tell me two things about ..." or "Just ask two questions about ...")
- It may help to model talking too fast verses talking at a slower pace and talking too loudly verses too quietly if this is an area of difficulty for the child
- Prompt the child to ask questions during conversations to help repair communication breakdowns
- Consider facilitating structured activities at break/lunch time in order to help support positive relationship building e.g. Lego or craft club

If you require any further support/advice please contact via the following email

[walsall.slt@nhs.net](mailto:walsall.slt@nhs.net)

In the subject line please state **FAO Virtual School SLCN Support** to ensure your message is actioned by the relevant team