

# HOW CAN WE HELP?



## Supporting a Child's Receptive/ Understanding of Language

### What is Receptive Language?

Receptive language is how the child understands and knows the meaning of words, sentences & conversation.

The child picks up clues from the situation that help him/her understand what is said.

The child learns to understand words, their meaning and instructions through the use of:

- Gestures
- Routine
- Copying others
- Repetition

A child may have difficulty understanding what certain words mean or understanding a lot of information given at one time.

### Helpful Strategies to trial:

- Ensure the child has stopped what they are doing and is looking and listening before giving an instruction. Use the child's name or move into their eye line to gain attention.
- Use visual cues to support what you are saying (e.g. objects, gesture/ mime/signs, pictures, facial expression)
- Use short simple instructions or key words
- Pause between chunks of information (e.g. "put your shoes on" **PAUSE** "go and get your coat" **PAUSE** "get your bag")
- Give instructions in the order you want the child to carry them out
- Give the child time to think about the instruction before expecting a response
- Check that the child has understood the instruction (i.e. ask then what they need to do)

- If the child has not understood then repeat the instruction while you help them carry out the task
- Look for patterns or specific aspects of language that the child does not understand in order to provide opportunities to develop and practice this understanding (e.g. concepts such as big and little, days of the week etc.)

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 the Virtual School Speech and Language Therapy Support team** to ensure your message is actioned by the relevant team.