**Use visual cues**

Using visual cues, including pictures, objects, gestures and signing helps children to understand language as well as giving children a way of asking a question, making a comment about their environment or planning what they want to do.

**Say the child’s name**

Say the child’s name (and touch their arm gently if necessary) to help the child focus when giving instructions or asking questions.

**Imitating**

Copy the child’s actions, facial expressions, sounds, words and phrases

**Repeat language**

It is essential to repeat language to enable a child to learn it. Songs, rhymes and stories will help with this.

**Remember to be face-to-face and at the same level moving to maintain this**

**Listen more than you talk**

It is easy when working with young children to talk most of the time. It is really important to be aware of this and allow children time to respond. Remember the 10 second rule.

**Comment on what is happening**

Comment on what the child is doing ‘**say what you see**

It is important for adults to use simple sentences and phrases as actions happen (in context). These sentences should be appropriate to the level of the child’s understanding of language.

**Give one instruction at a time**

When children’s language skills are developing, it can be very difficult for them to remember long strings of information or instructions using sequence words such as ‘before’ and ‘after’. You can really help children by giving instructions in sequence and one step at a time. E.g. “Go to the

toilet”, then “wash your hands”, or “put your coat on” and later “play outside”