NHS
Ealing Community Partners

Speech and Language Message of the Week

Use a **Now and Next board or Visual Timetable** to show lesson routines or the steps involved in an activity. This helps children to understand what is happening and to help them to prepare for any changes.

Sit pupils where they can see you and facing forward.

Manage background noise so children and adults can hear one another easily

Top Tips for Supporting Attention and Listening Skills

Give children **movement breaks** when needed e.g. collecting books, getting glue sticks, stretching.

Use a **sand timer** so children can see how long is left of an activity.

The child you are working with might not use eye contact and that's ok- don't insist on eye contact! Remember that each person has their own way of listening; even when a child is not looking or turning away they may still be listening. Notice how each child shows they are enjoying an activity or listening to you so you can adapt your communication style

Use **gestures, pictures and written words** alongside verbal instructions.

Before giving instructions, give the child a chance to give you their attention **(e.g. get down to their level, say their name and wait)**

Give instructions in the order you want them done and make them **simple**

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