



## Parent Information Sheet

### Supporting Difficulties Understanding Language

1. **Liaise** - Liaise with your child's Speech & Language Therapist & your child's Class Teacher / SENCO.
2. **Gain Attention** - Make sure you have your child's full attention before speaking. Say their name to get his/her attention before talking.
3. **Clarity** - Speak slowly, making sure your voice is loud and clear, but don't shout.
4. **Precise** - Keep sentences short, simple and precise. Be prepared to break them up into short chunks.
5. **Time** - Allow extra time for your child to process language.
6. **Present** - With children who have very low levels of understanding, talk about the 'here and now' to make your language meaningful.
7. **Basic** - Change the words you are using to make the speech simpler and keep the basic message.
8. **Good Listening** – Check frequently and ensure your child is listening carefully and understanding what is being said.
9. **Visual** - Give lots of visual cues e.g. gesture, actions and pointing to things.
10. **Support** - Help your child develop agreed strategies for aiding their own understanding and for letting you know if they have not understood.
11. **Relax** - Do not force your child into repeating words and sentences multiple times. This will cause undue stresses and pressures on your child.
12. **Model** - Repeat words for your child to hear, so he/she hears the correct model e.g. "yes .....at the sea side", but do not ask him or her to say it again (unless the SLT has advised you to focus on a particular sound or phrase).
13. **Praise** - Don't forget to praise your child for their efforts.