

ADVICE SHEET

General Strategies to support all children - social communication and interaction

Links to revised EYFS:

- Say the child's name to gain their attention
- Talk to the child at their level using a calm quiet voice,
- Be aware some children will not be able to give eye contact for cultural reasons or may find it physically painful. Instead children to turn towards you or focus on somewhere like your nose or mouth
- Simplify language used e.g. 'Tom, sit down' not 'Tom come and sit by me'
- Visually support language by introducing photographs, symbols, signing and props
- Start with a single step instruction 'coat on', then develop to 2 step 'first shoes on then coat on' etc as the child is able to cope with instructions
- Demonstrate to children what expectations are e.g. to sit on carpet with legs crossed etc.
- Give children time to process language (count to 10). If you have to repeat instructions use exactly the same words again
- Encourage the child to show what he wants – don't anticipate his needs too quickly, but don't leave it so long that he becomes frustrated
- Use the same words every time for things such as drink, snack, toilet
- Don't use overlong questioning e.g. 'Do you want to play in the sand or ride the bike?'
Instead use 'sand or bike?'
- Play alongside the child

