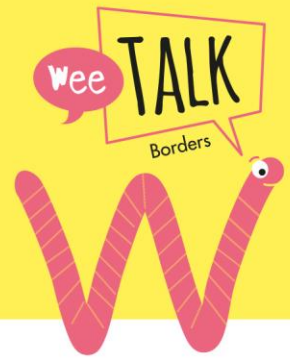


Speech & language  
therapy

## Ways and Strategies to Help and Support Listening, Attention and Understanding in the Classroom and Promote a Language Friendly Classroom

- ★ Consider where children are seated, children with attention difficulties will benefit from being near the front of the class, facing the teacher and away from the periphery of the classroom where they may be distracted by other things going on.
- ★ Although you want to avoid singling any child out, it can be useful to address particular children directly as well as addressing the whole class when giving verbal instructions/information. Have the child's attention before speaking to them e.g. say their name
- ★ Children who struggle with verbal instruction often benefit from being given visual support, it is always useful to supplement any verbal information with pictures or symbols. Support all instructions with visual prompts e.g. pointing, checking off on fingers, pictures, lists and if available real objects. SLT can provide more "visual timetables" for anyone who would find them beneficial and provide sets of simple pictures on particular topics – just let the SLT know what you need.
- ★ Children who are often "fidgety" and struggle to attend can often benefit from being sent on an errand in order to give them a short break from the classroom, this is also therapeutic in the sense that the child has to listen to and remember the instruction they were given!
- ★ It is very important for children who struggle to process verbal information to have commands and instructions short and simple- avoid excessive language. A long and complex sentence is likely to go over their heads. The child will also benefit from reinforcement of what they have been told, perhaps ask them to repeat it back to you or encourage them to write down the key points as a strategy to promote their independence in the classroom (so they don't come back 5 minutes later and ask what you said!)



Speech & language  
therapy

- ★ Background noise is a highly relevant factor when considering attention/comprehension problems in the classroom. Any possible methods of reducing background noise would be beneficial.
- ★ Allow ample time for a child to process information and respond  
Break instructions down into steps: e.g. first...next...last.

**For more information on the Speech and Language Therapy Service (including how to request support from us) please see: <http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/slt> Check out our Wee Talk Borders Facebook page or you can call us on 01896 826710**