BARNET EYSEND

TOP TEN TIPS TO

HELP MY UNDERSTANDING



Barnet Early Years SEND Advisory Team is committed to supporting early year's settings to move to more inclusive environments for children with a variety of special educational needs and disabilities. This Document has been produced by Barnet Early Years SEND Advisory Team

Top Ten Tips to help my understanding

1. **Reduce distractions**
   Reduce distractions around me such as background noise/visual distractions.

2. **Gain my attention**
   Gain my attention e.g. use my name/ensure you are near me/get down to my level so I can see your face/gently touch my arm or face if this helps me.

3. **Emphasise key words**
   Emphasise key words and use plenty of repetition in different situations.

4. **Use language to match my level of understanding**
   Use language to match my level of understanding. e.g. if I have a 1-key word level of understanding, you might say 'Give me the teddy', when there are 3 toys in front of me. Or, if I am at a 2-key word level of understanding, you may say 'Make teddy jump'.

5. **Use visuals**
   Use visuals e.g. pictures/photographs/objects/Makaton signs or other signs/gestures/body language such as facial expression, to demonstrate what you are saying.

6. **Give me enough time**
   Give me enough time to process what you have said and to respond. Wait for me to respond; don't be afraid of silence!

7. **Check that I have understood**
   Check that I have understood and when appropriate help me further e.g. repeat/show me in a different way/model it for me.

8. **Speak to me about what is happening**
   Speak to me about what is happening using simple language e.g. during routines such as nappy changing.

9. **Use visual timetables**
   Use visual timetables consistently to develop my understanding of what is happening next/routines/structure of the day.

10. **Create an environment that is organised and clearly labelled**
    Create an environment that is organised and clearly labelled e.g. photos of staff / where things belong etc.