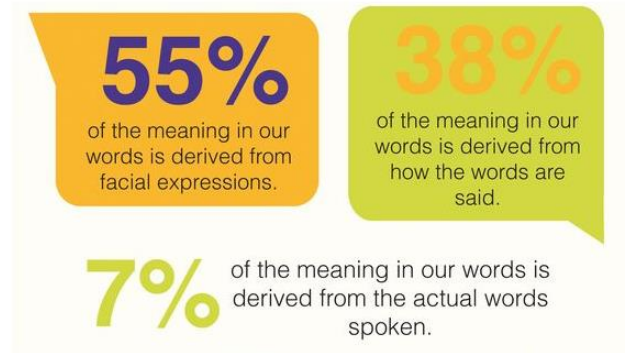


SEND Toolkit

Communication and Interaction

Early Years

Whole body Communication



- Use natural gestures with the child.
- Acknowledge children’s attempts at communication and respond, repeat and record.
- Observe and listen to the child as they listen taking into account how they interact with the world.
- Wait and pause for a response when playing together allowing at least 5 second intervals.
- Consider how they communicate their needs i.e. pointing, hand holding, hitting, biting – remember, behaviour is also a form of communication.
- Offer the child choices.
- Encourage movement for communication.
- Use visual tools to aid communication.
- Add simple commentary to play.
- Ask open and closed ended questions.
- Sing songs and look at books together to demonstrate shared experiences and shared communication.
- Follow the child’s lead
- Model good listening (good eye contact, wait to let others speak, appropriate body language, facial expressions, respectful)
- Don’t make ‘listening’ a chore to resist ‘Pay attention, fingers on lips, legs crossed, mouths closed’). Consider respectful guidance for children.