

## HELPING ME UNDERSTAND



Always make sure you have my **attention before** speaking to me,

- Say my name
- Get down to my level, be **face to face**
- Make sure I'm looking at you or the object you're talking about
- Reduce distractions [turn off the TV, computer, radio, etc]

Talk to me about the **here and now**,

- Things I'm doing
- Things I'm looking at
- Objects and actions that interest me

*This helps me to match words to the world around me.*

Use short, simple words and sentences

- Label objects with **single words**
- Use **short sentences** to give instructions
- Keep the **order** of the instruction the same as the **order** of the action(s)
- **Stress** or emphasize the important words

I like **repetition**. Say the words again and again and again. This helps me understand and remember language.

- Speak **slowly** to me; **pause** and **wait** for me to 'talk back'
- I also like to listen to an **interesting** and **tuneful voice**

Use **visual clues** to help me understand

- **Signs, gestures, facial expressions and body language** all help me understand
- **Show** me what you want me to do
- Point to **objects** and **pictures**
- **Mime actions**

Give me **clear choices** between 2 objects.

- Hold the objects out for me to see and name them using short sentences or single words. "Do you want .... milk or juice?"

Give me **lots of time** to think before I respond to you (count to 10 in your head).

- If you need to, you can **ask me again** using the same words. Don't forget to use **short and simple sentences**, and **show** me what to do.