Children who have difficulties understanding what is said
Information for parents, teachers and carers

For more information, please contact Speech & Language Therapy on:

For York and Selby Area: 01904 726599
For Scarborough Whitby, Ryedale Area: 01723 342472
UNIVERSAL LEVEL: ‘What you need to know’

Support, enable and include children with language comprehension difficulties through:

- Staff from nurseries and schools can attend training courses on understanding of language provided by the Speech and Language Therapy department;

  *Working with children with comprehension difficulties / difficulties understanding language. - Supporting children’s understanding in the early years and KS1 (and KS2-3 session)*

- Being aware that language comprehension builds up from simple understanding of speech to more complex understanding.

- Being aware that language comprehension difficulties may be hidden by the child’s coping strategies.

- Being aware that a child’s behaviour may be affected by not understanding spoken language.

- Being aware that a child may understand some spoken language but not all of what is said. The speech and language therapist will be able to explain the child’s specific difficulties with understanding spoken language.

- Read information about the development of Language Comprehension from relevant sources…..
TARGETED LEVEL:
Help children understand and develop their understanding by:

- Making sure you have the child's full attention before speaking

- Say the child's name before speaking to them to ensure you have their attention

- Speak slowly, making sure your voice is loud and clear, but don’t shout.

- Reduce background noise

- Keeping sentences short and simple. Be prepared to break them up into short chunks

- Allow extra time for the child to process language

- Be aware children may appear to understand spoken language but may use situational cues to understand

- Make sure your language is meaningful-talk about the here and now, things within the child’s experiences

- Change the words to help the child understand, use simpler words but keep the message the same

- Be aware when new words have been used and help your child understand these

- Check for listening and understanding frequently.

- Give lots of visual cues e.g. gestures, pointing to things

- Help the child develop a strategy to let you know when they have not understood

- Talk Boost, Active Listening or other groups may run in nurseries and schools that aim to boost listening and comprehension skills
Tell us what you think

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think.

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Teaching, Training and Research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of staff and improve health and healthcare in our community. Staff or students in training may attend consultations for this purpose. You can opt-out if you do not want trainees to attend. Staff may also ask you to be involved in our research.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

Patients, relatives and carers sometimes need to turn to someone for help, advice or support. Our PALS team is here for you.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or via email at pals@york.nhs.uk
An answer phone is available out of hours.

About Us

Providing care together in York, Scarborough, Bridlington, Whitby, Malton, Selby and Easingwold.

Caring with Pride:

Our ultimate objective is to be trusted to deliver safe, effective and sustainable healthcare within our communities.

Our values:

- Caring about we do
- Respecting and valuing each other
- Listening in order to improve
- Always doing what we can to be helpful

Speech and Language Therapy – comprehension difficulties school age