Social Communication

Classroom strategies



- Establish clear classroom routines
- Use ***visuals to support understanding and use of language*** (such as core boards, pictures or symbols)
- Use ***visuals to support understanding of routine*** (such as visual timetables and now/next boards).

Social Communication

Classroom strategies



- Consider ***sensory profiles of all YP***
- ***Structure activities*** for active participation
- Use all natural group activities as ***opportunities to focus*** on social communication skills

Social Communication

Classroom strategies



- Use motivating activities to develop interaction e.g. ***structured games to allow the child to participate*** in a group game or assign specific roles
- Model and ***reinforce positive social skills***
- During structured group activities – ***go around the group in an order*** to help YP follow the pattern of turns and identify who is next

Social Communication

Classroom strategies



- Create ***communication temptations*** (opportunities which encourage joint attention/social communication)
- ***Incorporate social communication*** into lessons (such as talking partners, partner work) and provide specific roles
- Encourage YP to ***share information related to personal experiences and opinions***. Encourage active listening, asking questions and making comments.

Social Communication

Classroom strategies



- Have ***visuals available to remind YP of ways to ask for help*** e.g. saying ‘what does…mean?’ or ‘can you show me?’

- Use ***visual or verbal prompting*** to bring the child back to the topic of conversation e.g. during a discussion about the weather if the child talks about visiting his granny at the weekend ask “are we talking about granny or the weather?” or drive a car on a map and if language becomes tangential – the car drives off the road

Social Communication

Classroom strategies



- Encourage all YP to contribute to lessons. This could be verbally or nonverbally (e.g. If you have an idea – put your hand up to talk or write it down/draw a picture/make a choice from symbols).
- If a YP puts up their hand but doesn't have an answer ready ***encourage them by saying "I'll ask you again in a minute"*** or say "I'm going to ask X and then I'm going to ask you"

Social Communication

For individual children



- Use of ***social stories and comic strip conversations*** to promote social understanding.
- For some children role play can also be used to develop ***specific communication skills*** e.g. initiating, turn taking, sharing, asking questions etc.
- This can be a great way for showing your child ***appropriate frameworks for social interaction*** and exploring how things can go wrong/what to avoid.