

How do we create Opportunities at School?

Opportunities to make choices throughout the school day

Encourage whatever is the child's preferred way of communicating during snack, lunch time, outdoor play, choosing time, learning activities etc.

Talking and Listening sessions such as PECS groups, Speech and Language Therapy groups, morning group, Talking Mats etc.

Opportunities for pupil to communicate with the wider school community and the local community. For example, to deliver a message or ask for an item in the local shop.

Play and learning experiences that include real life situations that look for pupils to engage in social interaction, turn taking and initiating interaction with others.

Wait – it is important to give pupils lots of time to communicate. For example, waiting for pupil to communicate that they need help with a particular task like zipping up their jacket.

Staff sharing knowledge and expertise to widen the communication experiences for pupils.

Why is it important to create opportunities for communication?

Gives pupil a voice to express their wants and needs to adults

Increases independence

Allows unfamiliar people to understand their wants and needs

Can impact positively on behaviour by reducing frustration

Provides opportunities for pupils and families to access appropriate activities

Creating Opportunities for Communication



Virtual Communication Day 2020



How our pupils communicate

Intensive Interaction

Speech/Vocalisations

Makaton

Gestural/Pointing/Reaching

Leading by the Hand

PECS/Photographs/Visuals

Facial Expression/Eye Contact

Switches/Other High-Tech Aids

Useful Resources

www.leedscommunityhealthcare.nhs.uk

<http://www.hanen.org/Helpful-Info/Articles/Creating-More-Opportunities-for-Interaction-with-C.aspx>

How can you create opportunities at home?

Create opportunities to communicate choices during daily routines such as meal times, play times, bath times, story time, bed time etc.

Deliberately build an obvious mistake into familiar home routines and give your child time to notice.

Create opportunities for choice making when out in the local community for example at the park, shops, visiting family etc.

Keep preferred items out of reach but in sight to motivate child to ask using their preferred method of communication.

Give the wrong thing on purpose. For example, if your child wants a specific toy give them the wrong provide opportunity to correct you.

Give preferred item(s) in smaller quantities or bursts of time. For example, give one piece of Lego for each request to encourage your child to ask for more.

Wait – it is important to give your child time to communicate in any given situation.

Create opportunities to ask for help. For example, if your child wants a balloon but can't blow it up wait until they initiate to you that they need your help.