



## Tips for Good Communication

Here are a few things that you can do to make it easier for your child to listen:

- Use your child's name to get their full attention before you start talking
- Get down to your child's level so that you are face to face and can see and hear each other better.
- Say their name again and wait until your eyes meet. At that moment you'll know they are paying attention and focussing on what you are saying. Your child is ready to listen.
- Try and maintain eye contact whilst speaking
- Use short simple sentences that are easy to understand.
- Speak clearly, without shouting, and maintain your normal rhythm of speech
- Don't cover your mouth whilst speaking – everyone lipreads to help understand what is said. Gestures and body language help understanding too.
- Repeat any instructions using different wording if they are not understood the first time.
- Always take the time to reply and encourage communication
- Try to reduce background noise in the room, such as turning off the TV or radio, closing the door or window, or moving to a quieter area.
- Be aware that your child may not hear clearly in a noisy environment such as when outside playing with other children, in the car, or near a busy street.
- Children with a hearing problem have to concentrate more to be able to listen. They may get tired more quickly than their peers and have less energy by the end of the day.

If you have any questions, or would like to book an appointment for a hearing assessment, please contact us at the number below or text 0750 0972 8527

If you would like more information on how to develop your child's communication skills visit

BBC Tiny Happy People [www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people](http://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people)