

## HOW TO SUPPORT CHILD TO UNDERSTAND SPOKEN LANGUAGE:

- Ensure that language is presented at the child's level (e.g. you may want to use a single word like "car" rather than "come on, you need to get into the car now as we are going home.")
- Children can struggle to understand all parts of instructions so if you do give longer requests, be aware that they may only process the last part
  - For example if you say, "I don't want you to run" – they may run as this is the only part of the instruction that they have processed so tell them what you want them to do, (e.g. "walking") would be best.
- To make your language as clear as possible so instead of "You're bouncing off the walls", you could say, "You're doing lots today". Children can get very confused with non-literal language.
- Objects of reference can also be really helpful to develop a child's understanding – objects of reference are objects that have a meaning assigned to them.
  - Please see a handout on how to use these in nursery.
- Use any sort of visual to support spoken language . Examples include:
  - Lanyard symbols e.g. when you want them to sit down, show a sitting picture.
  - Makaton signing
  - Visual timetable – please find more information on this attached.