

SUPPORTING OLDER CHILDREN WITH SOCIAL COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES

- Keep your language clear when giving instructions or explaining things.
- Avoid ambiguous language.
- Avoid jokes and sarcasm. Explain if you do.
- Stop the child before s/he goes too far because s/he has misread the situation.
- Encourage the child to use the context of the sentence or situation to work out the meaning of the word (e.g. if an adult said “Please find the bat so we can play cricket”, the adult means a cricket bat and not the animal).
- The child may require explicit teaching of words with more than one meaning and idiom phrases. Teach each word in the context of a sentence e.g. ‘cold’ has two meanings:
“I am wearing a jumper as it is very cold”
“I have a cold and don’t feel very well”.
Illustrating that “pull your socks up” doesn’t necessarily mean to do it literally.
- Encourage the child to seek clarification if they have not understood.