

Things to try

Try some of the following in your communications with the young people you work with.

- Use simple language
- Use short chunks of language
- Speak a little slower than you would normally do
- Ask the young person to repeat back in their own words what you have said
- Give pointers for what they should listen to
- Give an overview first
- Give extra time for the young person to listen and process
- Use visual aids to support understanding
- Give reminders of appointments
- Give a variety of tasks
- Give positive messages
- Give positive feedback
- Ask them what would help them
- Say when you have not understood what has been said
- Make written materials simple and clear

This information has been taken from the booklet Sentence Trouble which is intended to help improve understanding and communication with children and young people, particularly those with communication needs.

www.sentencetrouble.info

