



General Considerations for All Children

- Relax and be yourself.
- Speak naturally and clearly.
- Speak directly to the child and at their eye level.
- Find a quiet place or reduce background noise.
- Give children enough time to understand and respond to questions.
- Reword rather than repeat anything that is not understood.
- Use words that children will understand.
- **Find out what will help the child with communication.**

Additional Considerations

Children who are blind or have low vision

- Identify yourself and introduce others who are present.
- Name the person that is being addressed during group activities.
- Respond verbally to questions, rather than solely using gestures and facial expressions.
- Let the child know when you are about to leave a conversation.
- Use specific language when giving directions, such as 'left' and 'right' rather than 'here' and 'there'.
- Read aloud any text that the child is not able to read themselves.

Children who are deaf or hearing impaired

- Gain the child's attention by waving, using gestures or tap them lightly on the shoulder.
- Face the child when talking and make sure they can see your face clearly.
- Position yourself on the hearing aided side of the child when talking to them.
- Avoid mumbling by keeping hands and items away from your mouth.
- In group situations ensure that one person is talking at a time.
- Use visual cues if you cannot communicate your message with speech or sign.
- Consider using an FM system.

Autistic Children

- Gain the child's attention first by using their name.
- Use short, clear sentences.
- Slow down the pace of the conversation and say less.
- Use key words or repeat important information.
- Try not to use too many questions and give the child time to respond.
- Pay attention to non-verbal signals.
- Use [visual aids](#) and other forms of communication.

Children with Speech Difficulties

- Tune in and become familiar with the child's way of speaking.
- Allow time for the child to speak or to respond via their communication tools.
- Really listen to the child without interruption, finishing sentences or speaking for them.
- Become familiar with the communication tools that the child might be using.

Additional Resources

<https://www.scopeaust.org.au/information-resources-hub/resources-download/#kids-chat-2-you>