

Top tips for listening and responding

Ways in which you can listen and respond to my voice

Note: for the purpose of this strategy, we will use the word 'voice'. In this context 'voice' refers to all forms of communication, both verbal and non-verbal. Remember that all actions and behaviours are forms of communication.

I am unique ...



- I may respond better when you're at my level (remember some children do not like it when you are too close, touch them or give too much eye contact)
- Respond to my verbal and / or non-verbal communication
- See the world through my eyes, follow my lead, see what I'm interested in
- Consider my previous lived experiences, culture and stage of development

Building a positive relationship with me ...



- A secure relationship with my key person and peers helps me to communicate
- When you genuinely hear me, you are more likely to respond to my voice
- I need you to build a positive and respectful relationship with my parents and carers
- Help me to recognise my emotions by naming them and support me appropriately to manage them, I communicate my feelings through my behaviours

Environments to share my voice ...



- A responsive physical environment, where I can share my voice, helps me to feel valued
- A sensitive emotional environment gives me the security to share my voice
- When the learning environment reflects my needs, culture and lived experiences it makes me feel valued

I learn and develop in my own way ...



- Make sure my routines and transitions respond to my voice, culture and needs
- Put my voice at the centre of observations, assessments and planning
- Observe, value and respond to my unique characteristics of effective learning, take into account my individual pace of learning
- Share key information about me so that others know me as well as they can