

What you might see:

You might see a child who:

is difficult to understand

sounds different to their peers

has difficulty with sound awareness activities e.g.:

- clapping syllables in words,
- understanding rhyme,
- blending and segmenting

What you can try:

- Focus on what the child is saying, not how they are saying it. Do not say e.g. 'we don't say it like that'.
- Avoid pretending to understand when you have not. Repeat back what you have understood and ask questions to fill in the gaps e.g. 'I know you're talking about something that happened at break time, is it about one of your friends?'
- Encourage the child to show you if they can e.g. taking you to what they are talking about, using gesture, writing it down.
- Repeat back the child's word or sentences when they are unclear, but do not ask them to repeat you.
- Reassure the child that you are working with them to understand and that what they have to say is important.