

# Top tips for communication

1. Find a good place to communicate in - somewhere quiet without distractions. If you are talking to a large group be aware that some people may find this difficult.
2. Ask open questions - questions that don't have a simple yes or no answer.
3. Check with the person that you understand what they are saying - "the TV isn't working? Is that right?"
4. If the person wants to take you to show you something, go with them.
5. Watch the person - they may tell you things by their body language and facial expressions.
6. Learn from experience - you will need to be more observant and don't feel awkward about asking parents or carers for their help.
7. Try drawing - even if your drawing is not great it might still be helpful.
8. Take your time, don't rush your communication.
9. Use gestures and facial expressions. If you are asking if someone is unhappy make your facial expression unhappy to reinforce what you are saying.
10. Be aware that some people find it easier to use real objects to communicate but photos and pictures can really help too.

**Remember, all communication is meaningful, but you may need to work harder to understand.**