

Waltham Forest Early Years Guidance

Support for Communication and Language Needs



Visual Cues

Visual cues are a visual reminder that helps a child complete a task. When words are difficult for children to understand and use, other forms of communication will help.

Before you start, think about how the child already communicates, what they understand and recognise and what they are interested in.

For example:

- A child who looks at you and is interested in copying actions such as clapping will probably be good at learning signs.
- A child who is interested in or who will look at photos might find pictures or symbols helpful.
- A child who does not copy you and does not look at pictures or cannot see pictures will probably find objects easier.

Easiest  Hardest

| Object | Gesture | Photo | Drawing/symbol | Spoken word |
|--|--|--|--|-------------|
|  |  |  |  | “drink” |

Remember:

- Try to get the children’s attention first (be at their level, say their name, wait for eye contact)
- Use simple words alongside gestures/ pictures to help children learn to understand