

HOW TO HELP A CHILD UNDERSTAND

Receptive Language (also known as Comprehension) refers to the ability to understand the words that are said to you. This includes following directions and answering questions.

FIRST THINGS FIRST!

Make sure you have the child's attention first before asking a question or giving a direction

- Call the child's name
- Move closer and get down to their level
 - Have face-to-face interactions
- Use cuing words like "listening/looking/watching"

Following Directions—How Can I Help?

- Try repeating the direction
- Provide extra time for the child to respond
- Try using gestures with your hands such as pointing or showing
- Try simplifying the direction when the child doesn't follow through
- Try using visual supports (e.g. pictures of what you want the child to do)
- Provide hand-over-hand support and walk the child through what you wanted them to do (this is the highest level of support)

Answering Questions—How Can I Help?

If the child does not respond to your question:

- Try providing the child with a choice; this makes the question easier. For example, you ask a child "What does your doggie look like?" The child doesn't answer. You could try asking, "Is your doggie white or black?" You are helping by providing a model of the words he/she could use
- Simply model the answer from the child's perspective. For example, you ask a child "Who gave you that shirt?" The child doesn't answer. You can model, "Mommy gave me this shirt."
- Always make sure to wait after your models to give the child a chance to repeat the model after you.

For more information, please speak to your Speech-Language Pathologist!

