**Ten Top Tips for pupils with SLCN**

These tips include the views of young people, taken from the Communication Trust

1. **Use language at an appropriate** **level** - not too complicated but don’t be patronising! Make sure all staff are aware of the level of language comprehension of specific individuals, so as to avoid unnecessary misunderstandings or inappropriate behaviours.
2. **Pre-teach any new vocabulary** - using word maps for example.
3. **Use short chunks of language** - if you have to give a lot of information or instructions, break it down into chunks and pause after each one to allow processing time.
4. **Use visual aids to support understanding** - visual support makes language easier to process and understand. Use gestures, facial expressions, pictures, videos, drawings on the whiteboard, real objects or demonstrations.
5. **Make lessons fun** - be enthusiastic about your subject and teach things in different ways.
6. **Encourage young people to speak with each other** - through debates, discussions, role play, hot-seating, speaking and listening games. Studies have shown that in some classrooms 90% of the talk is done by the adults!
7. **Encourage young people to ask questions** - either when they haven’t understood or to find out more.
8. **Allow extra processing time when asking questions** - this provides time to make sense of the question, organise thoughts and formulate a response.
9. **Comment on what the young person is doing rather than asking them questions** - this reinforcement will support learning and thinking.
10. **Make sure all adults model language correctly** - this doesn’t mean speaking like the Queen, accents and dialects make language interesting and lively! But make sure grammatical structures and vocabulary are accurate.