

Speech and Language Therapy advice for young adults in College (for education staff)

Supporting students with unclear speech:

- ⇒ Respond to what the student says. Correcting mispronunciations can be confusing if the message has not been acknowledged first
- ⇒ Repeat back what has been understood so that the student can hear what has been understood and fill in any gaps or revise the message if needed
- ⇒ Use more pauses in your own speech to show the student that it is ok to speak at a slower pace
- ⇒ Encourage the student not to give up



Supporting students with College work:

- ⇒ Give constructive praise- give accurate, supportive feedback
- ⇒ Make the learning outcome realistic
- ⇒ Clearly explain the learning objective
- ⇒ Break down the objective into small achievable tasks
- ⇒ Make sure that completion of a task is clearly recognisable by the student
- ⇒ Use a chart that states the goal, lists the steps that need to be achieved and how to achieve them. These could be supported with pictures.

Supporting students to understand spoken information:

- ⇒ Chunk spoken information into smaller parts and check that the young person has understood by asking them to explain what they think they have to do
- ⇒ The language used might be too complex. If a sentence/word/conversation has not been understood, reduce the amount of verbal information given, say a shorter sentence and/or use simpler vocabulary. Use diagrams and pictures to support understanding.
- ⇒ In a group situation, you may need to get the attention of the young person first or speak to them individually and explain that the information is for them too.
- ⇒ Use word learning strategies– word maps, spider diagrams, pictures/photos, to support learning and recall of key words and information (see diagram below).
- ⇒ When giving long verbal instructions, pause between each command to allow the young person to process the instruction.
- ⇒ Use a multisensory approach when giving information – use pictures, diagrams, charts, real life objects, photos, role play.
- ⇒ Avoid using sarcasm, metaphors or other forms of non-literal language as these can be difficult for the young person to understand.

