

SPEECH BRIDGE

Bridging Therapy And Professional Support

Communication Tips for the beginning of a new term

At the beginning of a new term children can be excited or anxious because they are in a new class. Below are some communication tips to help children settle in their new classroom.

Start conversations by using the child's name.

This may help create a sense of belonging and can support the child in settling into the new environment.

Eye contact.

Positioning yourself onto the child's level and using eye contact will ensure conversations are more focussed for each child.

Keep instructions and questions short and clear.

To encourage full understanding, break down and repeat complex instruction.

Phrase instructions positively.

For example, use language like "please use your quiet voice" rather than "don't shout".

Use visual supports.

Using visual supports will aid understanding.

Repeat key classroom information regularly.

To ensure the message is understood reinforce key information so that classroom routines etc become familiar to the child.

First and next.

Repeat what is happening next throughout the day so that children become familiar with the routine. This may help with anxiety during transitions.