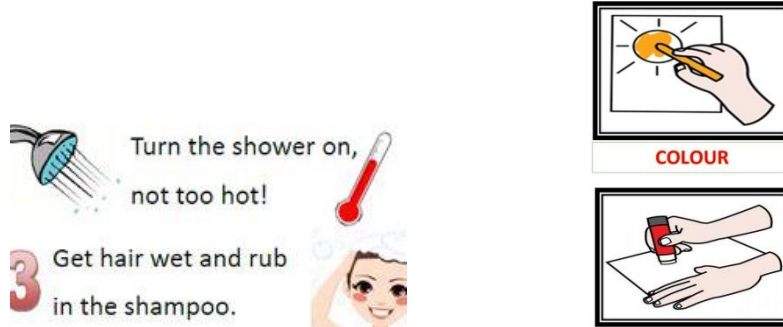


Strategies to support understanding

- Keep language simple and to the point. Make everything very clear for the child.
- Break instructions into short phrases, which contain only one piece of information at a time.



- Write or draw out the steps using a task planner to help the child to understand how to do a task. For example, write out a step-by-step plan for the task from start to end, using pictures or key words. Check that the child has understood by asking them to explain instructions back to you.

First	Next	Then
1	2	3

- Encourage child to say when they have not understood e.g. ‘You can say – “I don’t know that word.”’
- Give no more than 2 or 3 pieces of information at a time.
- Give instructions in the order in which they should be done.
- Use a slow pace of talking, and emphasise key words.
- Avoid using confusing/abstract concepts, such as before and after, and instead use clear phrases such as ‘First’ and ‘Then’.

- Use hand gestures and visual cues to support verbal understanding.



Book

- Allow extra time for the child to process the language and give a response.
- Repeat what you have said if needed.
- Simplify instructions/ questions if they are struggling to understand.
- Ask the child to repeat an instruction back to you so you can be sure that she/he has understood.



- Encourage the child to repeat the instruction back to themselves as a way of helping them to retain the information.
- Use a visual timetable and now/next board to help children understand routines.



- Explain tricky concepts in more detail. You can reassure children if it's a tricky idea.