

Clarification Strategies

What to do when I don't understand my child

- Say that you don't understand. Don't pretend that you do.
- Repeat what you think you did understand.
- Encourage the individual to keep trying.
- Ask them to tell you the topic (by using a topic board or other quick technique).
- Ask them to start spelling it (first letter cueing) - if they are able to do this. If not, always have an alphabet display available for modeling and ongoing teaching.

Ask them to:

- *Slow down*
- *Say it in a different way*
- *Tell you more*
- *Show you (by acting it out or pointing to something)*

Try to understand the topic by asking questions.

- *What is it about?*
- *Who is it about?*
- *Where did it happen?*
- *When did it happen?*

Offer choices:

- *Do you want to play or read?*
- *Is it milk or juice?*

Adapted from "Ideas for Implementing Strategies to Help Clarify Speech Attempts", from Nora Rothschild, 2005 Bloorview MacMillan Children's Centre

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