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