

## Enabling Instructions in the Early Years – Top Tips



1. **Stop and pause before giving instructions.** Children are still learning to 'listen and do.'
2. **Filter sound:** remove any unnecessary noise so children can listen to the instruction.
3. **'Chunk' instructions and use the simplest language possible.** Say one step at a time: **Stand up [pause for them to do this] Find your lunchbox [Pause] line up \*here\* [Model].**
4. **Give instructions in chronological order,** this means saying them in the order it will happen. Rather than saying: '~~Before we get our coats, put your book away.~~' Say **'First put your book away, next get your coat.'**
5. **Adapt the number of key words in instructions to meet the child's understanding.**



6. **Make the environment an enabling place to follow instructions** by having clear labels, showing children where different items 'live' and using picture-word labels around the space.

7. **Explain the meaning of words** we use frequently in instructions, such as: *tidy, bin, mix, share, line-up*. Don't presume children understand these tricky words that we use often.

8. **Model the instruction,** 'talking out loud' as you do it.



9. **Provide visuals** – these will support children to understand what they are expected to do.

10. **Use visuals to help children to understand rules and boundaries.**

