**Do…**

* Maintain normal eye-contact while the child is talking even when they stammer.
* Give them your full attention when they are speaking to you. If you are busy – give them a time when you can talk!
* Give children plenty of time to talk
* Focus on what they are saying and not how they are saying
* Speak in a steady and calm voice – slow your own rate of speaking
* Give the child praise - not necessarily about their speech!
* Reduce demands on talking: e.g. answering questions, reading aloud.

**How To…**

**Support stammering in the classroom**

**2 Part event**



**Do not…**

* Don’t correct the child or ask them to say it again (unless you genuinely didn’t hear them)
* Don’t tell them to what to do e.g. ‘slow down’, ‘take your time’, ‘think before you speak’
* Don’t use negative language about the stammer
* Don’t Put pressure on the child to speak



**Talking about stammering…**

It’s important to be open about stammering. It can help to reassure the child and prevent anxiety about talking.

* **Acknowledge:** “I can see that word is a bit tricky for you”
* **Normalise:** “We all get a bit stuck with our words sometimes.”
* **Validate:** ‘’It feels annoying when our words don’t come out, doesn’t it?” ‘I know it can be frustrating for you’’
* **Reassure:** “You’re doing brilliantly. I’m listening.’’
* **Offer help:** “Is there anything I can do to make it easier for you?”

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