

Strategies to increase Confidence

Strategies

Include the child **gradually** into the classroom and playground activities:

1. 1:1 with an adult.
2. pairs supervised by an adult.
3. small groups supervised by an adult.
4. larger groups.
5. whole class activities, eg. class assembly, drama, PE.

Give lots of **praise** in a variety of situations as and when appropriate.

Give positive feedback for trying.

Give some **responsibilities** to the child – eg. taking messages, making the child a monitor for something, etc.

Use **visuals** to support conversation – eg. symbols, pictures, objects, written information.



If the child is not speaking:

- Treat the child in just the same way as the others.
- Present a reassuring, smiling face – let the child know you enjoy being with him/her.
- Do NOT beg, bribe or challenge the child to speak.
- If the child is not speaking in a situation, treat this calmly and unemotionally and move on without making a big deal out of it.
- Avoid asking direct questions – provide opportunities for comments. “I wonder...”, “I bet...”, “I suppose...” I guess...” are useful phrases.
- Turn your ear towards the child so that an answer can be whispered if the child prefers.
- Avoid situations where other children or adults are watching and waiting for the child to speak.
- Provide other non-verbal means of communicating, such as drawing, writing, matching, etc, but integrate these into the normal lesson so that it is not seen as a permanent alternative to speech.
- Provide a relaxing, enjoyable environment to gain the child’s trust.



Treat them the same but do not pressure on them to speak

