

## Support stammering in the classroom

### 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 it.
- 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.



### Do not...

- Correct the child or ask them to say it again (unless you genuinely didn't hear them).
- Tell them to what to do e.g. 'slow down', 'take your time', 'think before you speak'.
- Use negative language about the stammer.
- 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?"