**Sensory and/or physical needs**

**Hearing impairment**

**Top Tips for developing an Inclusive Learning Environment**

**Do:**

* Speak clearly and naturally. Try to use an expressive face.
* Get a deaf child’s attention before you start speaking. Try waving, knocking a table or tapping their shoulder lightly.
* Face a deaf child when you’re talking. Always make sure the deaf child can see your face clearly. If necessary, sit down or crouch so that your face is level with theirs.
* Use visual cues, where possible. Point to what you’re talking about.
* Make it clear what the topic of conversation is – and let the deaf child know if it’s changed.
* Stand with your face to the light.
* Use whole sentences to help a deaf child pick up clues to what’s being said.
* Group conversations can be difficult for deaf children. Try to keep a deaf child involved and avoid all speaking at once.
* Ask a deaf child to repeat what you’ve said if you’re not sure if they’ve understood.

**Don’t:**

* Speak too slowly or shout – this will distort your lip patterns.
* Move your head or walk around while you’re talking. Speech movements can easily be missed.
* Have lots of noise on in the background. Hearing aids amplify all noises, not just your voice.
* Take forever to get to the point. Avoid rambling.
* Cover or put anything in your mouth while talking. Eating while talking is a definite no-no.
* Stand with your back to a window – this can turn your face into a shadow and make it harder to lip-read.
* Make a deaf child lipread for too long without a break. Lipreading involves a lot of concentration and can leave deaf children feeling tired.
* Give up. If stuck, try explaining in a different way or writing it down.