My Child has Trouble Understanding: Things You Can Work on at Home

- Turn off background noise (TV/radio/fans):
  - Create a quiet environment so you do not have to compete with other noise when you speak to your child.

- Change how you speak to your child:
  - Say less.
  - Be specific.
  - Repeat often.
  - Say important words a little louder and a little slower.
  - Use actions and gestures to add meaning to your words.

- Teach your child good listening rules:
  - Look at the person who is talking.
  - Don’t interrupt.
  - Sit/stand quietly.
  - Keep your hands to yourself.
  - Enforce these rules at home and remember to use them yourself.


- Use the same words in different ways to give your child lots of exposure to a word (e.g., “Apple is red.” “Apple is green.” “Cut apple.” “Apple in tree.” “Apple all gone.”) Do this during playtime or everyday activities.

- Encourage appropriate behaviour. Children who do not understand often get confused. They may not always behave in the way we want.
  - Be specific (e.g., “Walk to the door.” “Put on your shoes.” “Blow your nose.” “Come here now.”)
  - Be consistent and predictable. A structured, daily routine makes it easier for your child to do as he is asked.
  - Encourage your child to use words (e.g., “no”, “mine”, “more”, “go”) instead of hitting or grabbing. Use these words yourself so he learns what to say.