

Information for Parents

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What is Receptive Language Difficulty

Your child may have difficulty understanding words, sentences or instructions.

This may be particularly true when no other clues from gestures or context are available, in unfamiliar situations and when no other people are around to copy.

Delayed or disordered comprehension (a problem understanding words and sentences) is often hard for families to identify, as children can be very good at using the clues around them.



Parents sometimes say, 'I feel he's ignoring me when I ask him if he wants a bag of crisps, but he soon comes running if he hears a crisp packet crackling.'

There may be a number of reasons for this type of behaviour. Your child could have an undetected hearing problem, or could simply be ignoring you. It could be that they have poor attention or listening skills or find interacting and engaging with others challenging. On the other hand, it could be that they don't understand what is being said, but do recognise the sight and sound of the crisp packet, using visual and auditory clues that they do understand.

It's particularly important that any problem in understanding (which may look like poor attention or listening) is identified as soon as possible.