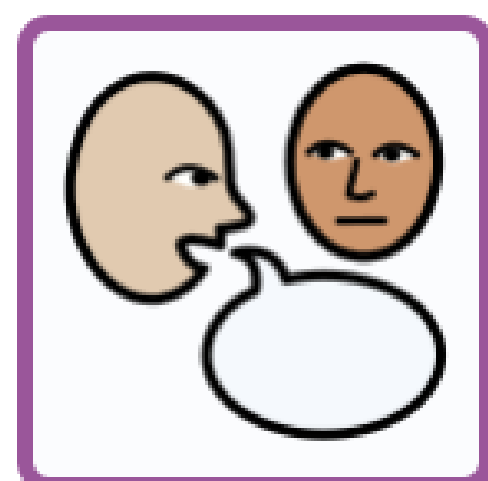
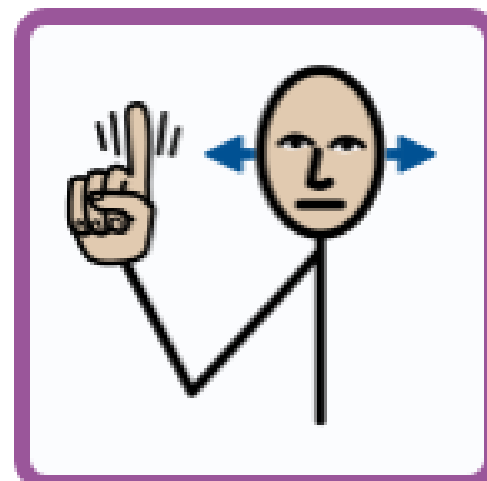


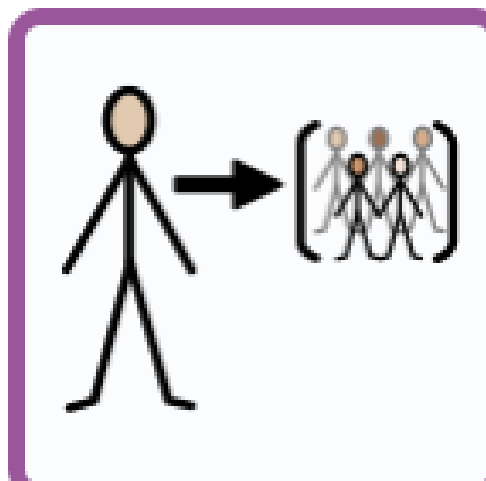
SELECTIVE (SITUATIONAL) MUTISM SUPPORT STRATEGIES



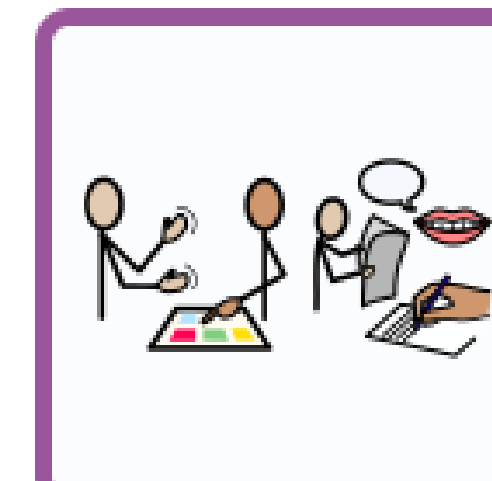
Talk openly to the child, about their difficulty speaking, in an accepting way.



Understand that the mutism is not deliberate.



Encourage general participation without pressure on them to speak.



Reward independence and all forms of communication.

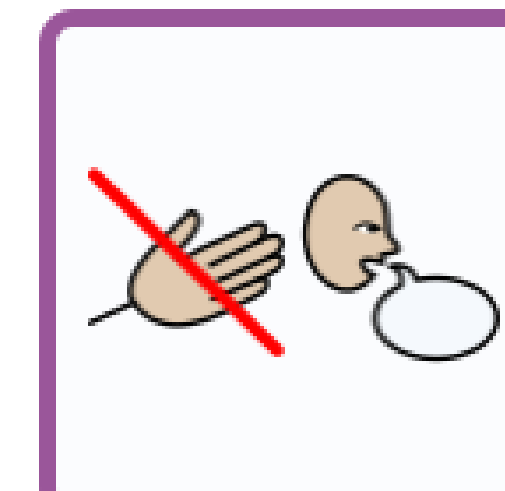
Get support as soon as you notice signs of mutism. Remind them it is temporary and you are here to help.



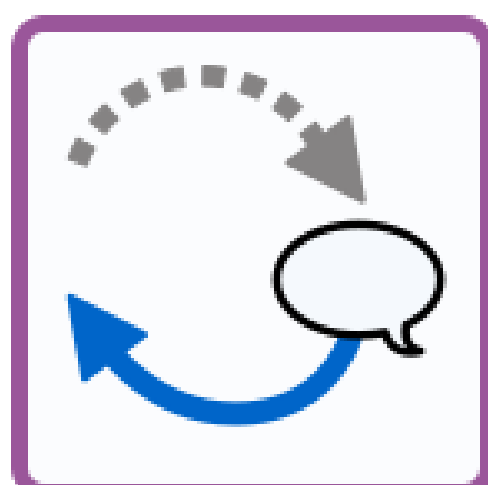
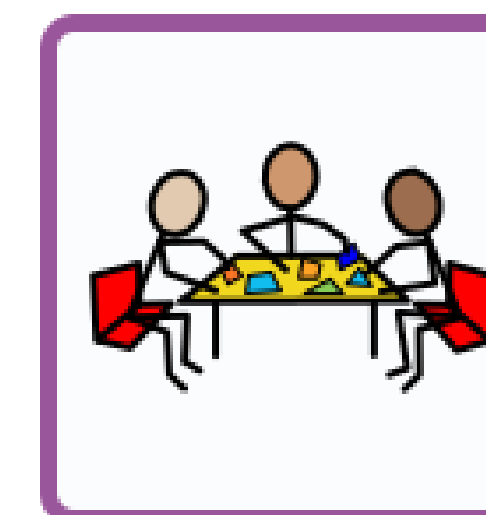
Don't be too direct or put them on the spot with questions.



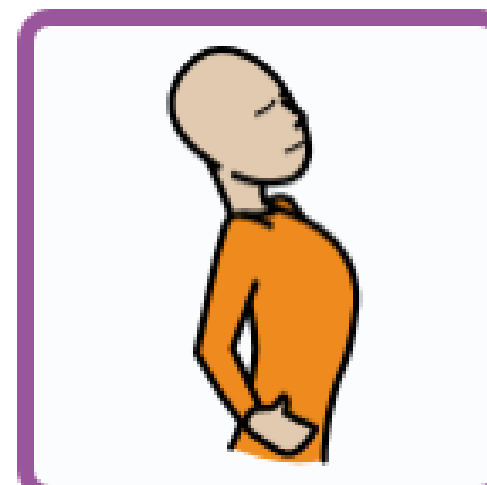
Step in and stop unhelpful comments such as "are you not speaking today.?"



Create opportunities for them to get involved with peers in a non-verbal activity.



Respond to what they say if they speak, not that they did speak.



Reward courage or bravery when it's a small or big step for them.



Focus on what they can do and make them aware of their achievements in private rather than public.



Make daunting tasks easier for them rather than stepping in to do it for them.

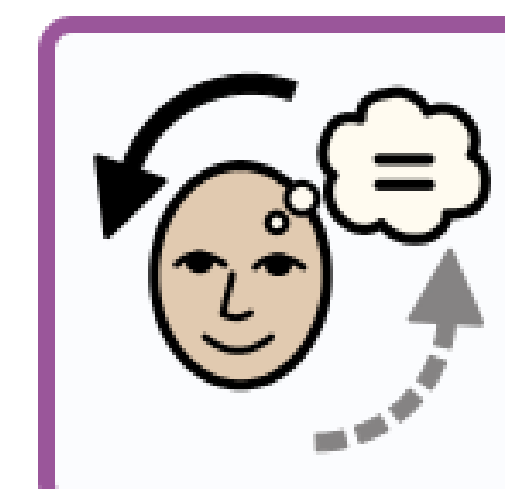
Reward effort rather than perfection and help them view mistakes as proof of learning.



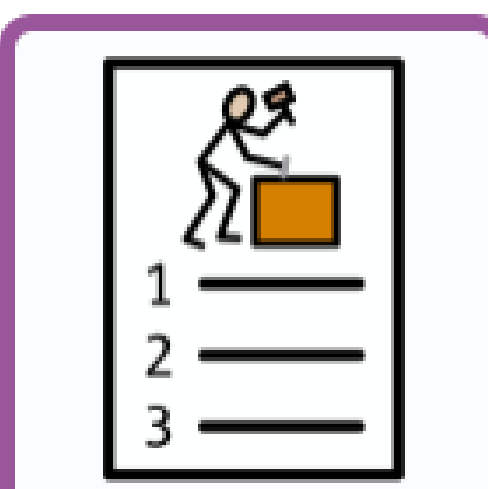
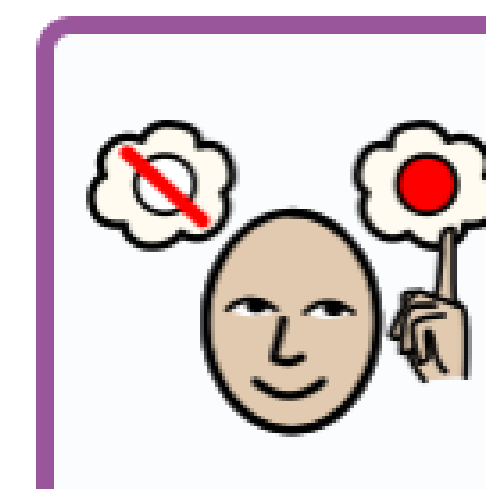
Laugh, relax and have fun together. Build relationship by spending time with them.



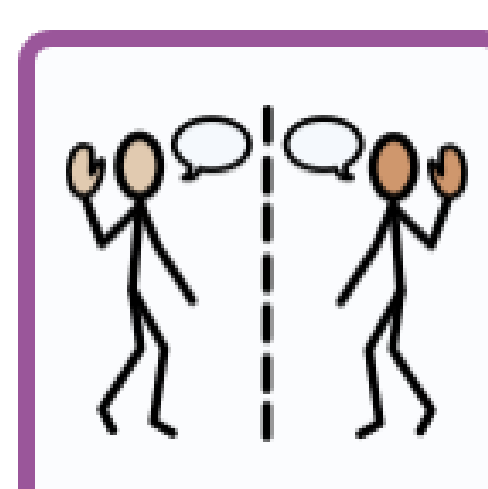
Help them come up with their own solutions to problems.



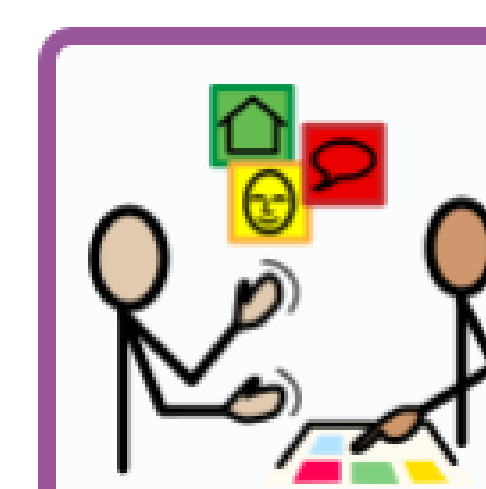
Think out loud and use comments more than you ask questions. Give choices they can use in response.



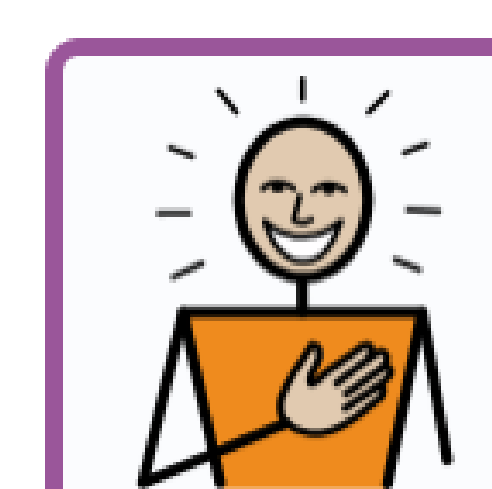
Prepare them for what you are about to do and what speaking opportunities might arise.



Organise activities where you move, sing or talk in unison e.g. reading a book together.



Provide alternative means of communicating e.g. whiteboard, signs or AAC.



Have the same expectations for good behaviour as for any other child.