

Check out the HSE YouTube video
'Helping a reluctant speaker: 9 top tips'
(scan QR code)



20. Nine Top Tips

for helping a child who is reluctant to speak

1. Focus on what the child CAN do to help them feel included

2. Mistakes happen. Talk openly about your mistakes

3. Avoid complex questions



4. Use more comments and fewer questions

5. 'I wonder' questions are a magic type of question

6. Try not to give lots of extra attention when they do speak

7. Use compassionate gestures and body language

8. Let the child know that you realise talking can be difficult
for them in some situations



9. It's OK to worry.