

The child who stutters

Strategies for kindergarten teachers and staff

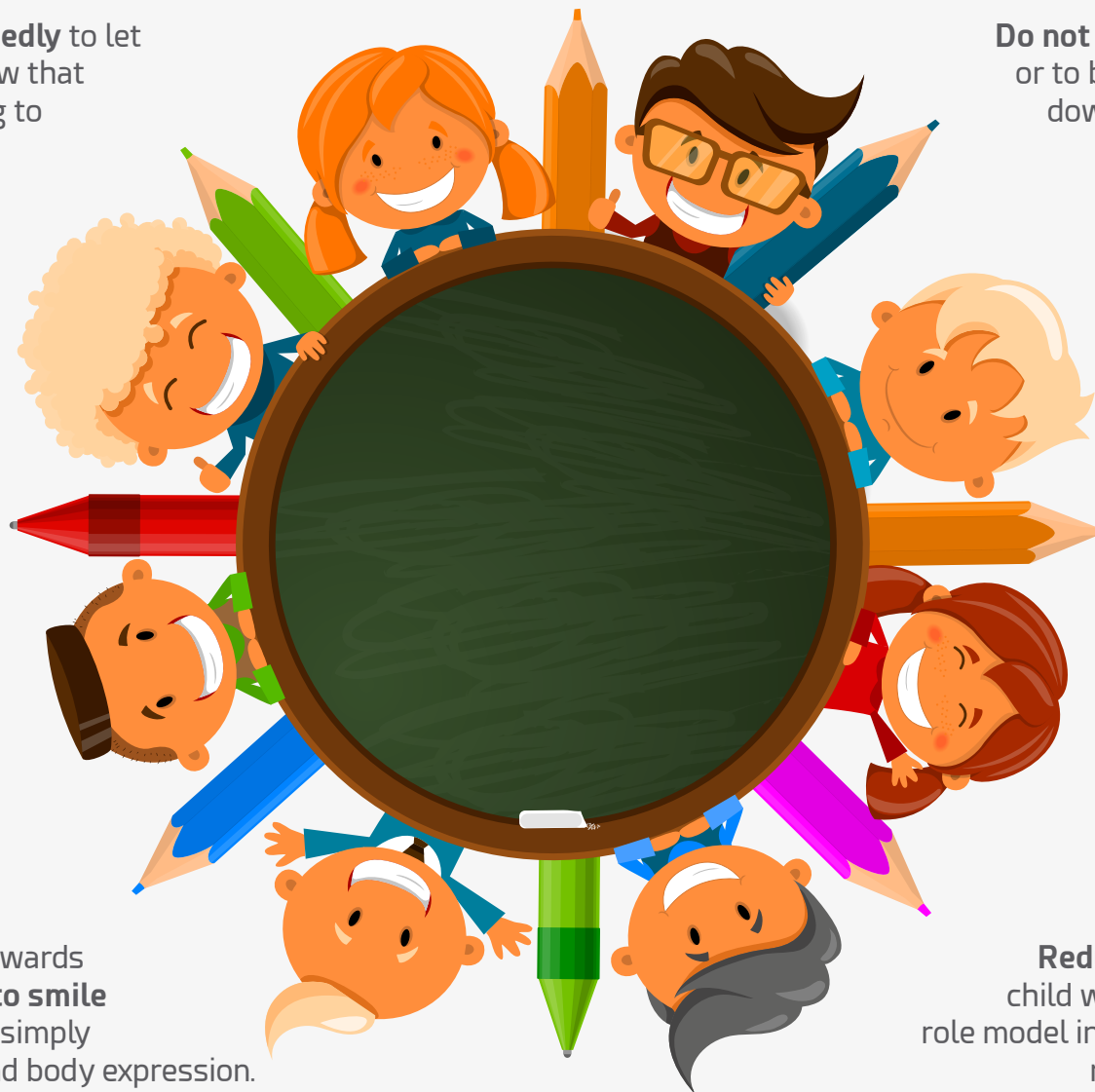


1 Talk **serenely and unhurriedly** to let the child who stutters know that you're available and willing to hear her/his thoughts.

2 Do not end, complete or guess what the child is trying to say. **Let the child speak freely.**

3 Become a good **listener**. Keep visual contact and be patient, allowing the child to conclude her/his ideas calmly..

4 Do not show discomfort towards the child's stuttering. **Try to smile while the child speaks** or simply maintain a neutral facial and body expression.



5 Do not ask the child to speak slowly or to breath and relax. This will only downplay her/his communication capacities..

6 Show that you're paying **attention to the child's messages** (content) rather than to how s/he speaks..

7 When you're addressing the classroom, give **priority to the children who stutter** in order to diminish their potential anxiety.

8 **Reduce comments** about how the child who stutters speaks. Become a role model instead, talking slowly and with more breaks in your discourse.