**3. Strategies to engage in communication across different cultures**

The following strategies can help you communicate more effectively during placement, making a positive impression on your audience.

* Speak clearly and slowly: Articulate your words and slow down your speech to ensure your message is understood.
* Maintain a consistent tone: Use a calm and steady voice. Remember that not everyone may be a native speaker, so avoid raising your voice or sounding condescending.
* Pronounce words clearly: Pronounce carefully and avoid using slang or informal expressions. Stick to simple and widely understood words.
* Use relatable stories and analogies: Share examples and stories that are universally understood to clarify your points. This helps make your ideas more relatable.
* Be culturally aware: Understand that language can have different meanings in different cultures. Be mindful of how your words might be interpreted by others.

Record the phrases you hear in the context they were used to help you incorporate this language into your communication. It is important to:

* Understand the link between language and function
* Build your own list of useful phrases to help express your ideas

On placement students will be exposed to a wide range of accents, and that this can present challenges. The following strategies can help you deal with the challenges (Prince & Hoppe 2000).

* *Capture*

During your practicum, to avoid any misunderstandings, concentrate fully on the conversation at hand. Make sure to take note of what is being said and use your understanding of different cultures to interpret the meaning.

* *Clarify*

If you're not completely certain about what the other person is saying, observe their non-verbal cues like body language, facial expressions, and eye contact to help understand their message. Ask them directly to clarify if needed. You can also verify your understanding with someone else who is aware of the conversation.

* *Confirm*

Ensure that the listener, whether they are children, young people, mentor teachers, parents, etc. has understood your message. Ask them if they have comprehended what you said, and if not, rephrase or clarify your point. Consider restating your message differently, either in writing or visually, if possible.

Reference

Prince, D & Hoppe, MH 2000, *Communicating across cultures*, Centre for Creative Leadership, USA.