



Communication and language – information for parents

Dear parents,

The communication and language educational programme in the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework underpins all our work with your child. It focuses on:

- **Interactions in a communication rich environment.
- **Reading books and singing songs and rhymes together.
- **Storytelling and role play to develop children's language.
- **Your child's listening and understanding skills.

The aim is for your child to become a confident speaker who can share ideas and answer questions.

In our early years setting, we focus on making time for talk – whether that's playing peepo with the babies, chatting to toddlers about what they are doing, reading books and singing songs and rhymes every day with all the children or playing word games with our pre-school children.

Words are powerful – they allow your child to communicate and play with their friends. We explore language when we read new books we have borrowed from the library or listen to a story on YouTube, learn the words to new songs and rhymes, join in role play with your child, ask questions on a nature walk and sit with your child to play their favourite game.

We build your child's vocabulary when we comment on what they are doing, expand their sentences and play word games with them. We are always careful to give them time to think before answering a question – we don't want them to feel under pressure because it's important they enjoy talking to us.

Listening is not the same as hearing. Yes, your child needs to be able to hear what is happening around them, but their listening is linked closely to their understanding of what is being said. We play with your child every day and we play listening games, make suggestions, build on their current interests (which is one of the reasons we ask you to keep us updated on home learning) and more.

If you have any questions about how we support your child's communication and language or you have concerns about your child's progress, please ask. Thank you.