

Communication and Language Overview



EYFS Communication and Language (Statutory)

The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development. Children's back-and-forth interactions from an early age form the foundations for language and cognitive development. The number and quality of the conversations they have with adults and peers throughout the day in a language-rich environment is crucial. By commenting on what children are interested in or doing, and echoing back what they say with new vocabulary added, practitioners will build children's language effectively. Reading frequently to children, and engaging them actively in stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems, and then providing them with extensive opportunities to use and embed new words in a range of contexts, will give children the opportunity to thrive. Through conversation, story-telling and role play, where children share their ideas with support and modelling from their teacher, and sensitive questioning that invites them to elaborate, children become comfortable using a rich range of vocabulary and language structures.

Development Matters

Understand how to listen carefully and why listening is important.

- Learn new vocabulary.
- Use new vocabulary through the day.
- Ask questions to find out more and to check they understand what has been said to them.
- Articulate their ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences.
- Connect one idea or action to another using a range of connectives.

ELG: - Speaking (Statutory)

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary.
- Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate.
- their ideas and feelings about their experiences using full sentences, including use of past, present and future tenses and making use of conjunctions, with modelling and support from their teacher.

ELG - Listening, Attention and Understanding (Statutory)

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions.
- Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding.
- Hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchanges with their teacher and peers.

Skills/Knowledge taught in EYFS

- Develop listening skills through a range of games and activities
- Develop childrens receptive language (Understanding)
- Develop childrens expressive language to talk about feelings
- How to actively listen - listening behaviours and techniques
- Understand the purpose of a question
- Join in singing, rhymes and repeated refrains in stories

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- Skills for a two-way conversation
- Basic vocabulary to children below Age Related Expectations
- Confidence to talk in front of groups/the class
- How to speak in a full sentence clearly and use connectives
- Who the characters and setting in a book are and structure of the story (beginning, middle and end)
- Observation and prediction skills
- Prepositions and instructional language
- Skills to provide an explanation on ideas, topics learnt, and books read
- Vocabulary for storytelling, play and writing.
- Sequencing words
- More questioning techniques