

Speaking and listening

Did you know.....?

- ▶ Parents have more impact than any other factor on their child's language development.
- ▶ Good language development leads to good development in other areas.
- ▶ Parental engagement with their child is a key factor in higher achievement.

Why are communication skills important.

Reduces frustration.

Children are able to say what they want to happen.

They understand better.

Make friends.

Tell you if they are hurt or upset.

Skills needed

- ▶ Attention skills- maintaining attention is essential for learning.
- ▶ Understanding instructions containing sequence words.
- ▶ Understand and use adjectives.
- ▶ Using well formed sentences.
- ▶ Taking turns in conversation
- ▶ The ability to discuss feelings and ideas and give opinions.
- ▶ Uses future and past tense.
- ▶ Understands questions with two parts.
- ▶ Understands why questions.

Phase 1 phonics

Phase 1 is divided into seven aspects. Each aspect contains three strands:

Tuning in to sounds (auditory discrimination)

Listening and remembering sounds (auditory memory and sequencing)

Talking about sounds (developing vocabulary and language comprehension).

▶ **Aspect 1 - General sound discrimination - environmental**

The aim of this aspect is to raise children's awareness of the sounds around them and to develop their listening skills.

▶ **Aspect 2 - General sound discrimination - instrumental sounds**

This aspect aims to develop children's awareness of sounds made by various instruments and noise makers.

▶ **Aspect 3 - General sound discrimination - body percussion**

The aim of this aspect is to develop children's awareness of sounds and rhythms.

▶ **Aspect 4 - Rhythm and rhyme**

This aspect aims to develop children's appreciation and experiences of rhythm and rhyme in speech.

▶ **Aspect 5 - Alliteration**

The focus is on initial sounds of words, with activities including I-Spy type games and matching objects which begin with the same sound.

▶ **Aspect 6 - Voice sounds**

The aim is to distinguish between different vocal sounds and to begin oral blending and segmenting.

▶ **Aspect 7 - Oral blending and segmenting**

In this aspect, the main aim is to develop oral blending and segmenting skills.

Phase 2 phonics

- ▶ In Phase 2, letters and their sounds are introduced one at a time. A set of letters is taught each week, in the following sequence:

Set 1: s, a, t, p

Set 2: i, n, m, d

Set 3: g, o, c, k

Set 4: ck, e, u, r

Set 5: h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss

As soon as each set of letters is introduced, children will be encouraged to use their knowledge of the letter sounds to blend and sound out words.

Please read with your child every day.

How can you help

- ▶ Get down to their eye level or bring them up to yours.
- ▶ Children need practice- Give them plenty of opportunities to talk and listen to what they say.
- ▶ Have quiet time. Turn off the television and give children the chance to listen.
- ▶ Talk in short sentences. It helps children understand what you are saying and gives them the chance to copy.
- ▶ When they say 1 word, you say 2.
- ▶ Give them time to process. (7 seconds)
- ▶ If a child says a word incorrectly just repeat it back to them, do not make them say it back to you.
- ▶ Develop talk through play.
- ▶ Phonics booklet