

Reception

Supporting your child with literacy at home



Communication and language development

Supporting your child to become an effective communicator is one of the most valuable things that you can do to help them to progress across all areas of learning.

What might you see your child learn to do between 40 and 60 months? From 'What to Expect, When' by Action for Children

Listening and attention

When I'm singing songs or sharing a story with a grown up, I am able to listen really carefully to what is happening.

I can listen to what you want me to do and then I can do it.

Understanding

When I'm singing songs or sharing a story with a grown up, I am able to listen really carefully to what is happening.

I can listen to what you want me to do and then I can do it.

Speaking

- I can use lots of words to tell you about something that I have made or something that I have done.
- I like you to use new words to talk to me about what I am doing or what I am using. Then I like to try to use these new words as I am playing.
- I can pretend to be different people and can pretend to do different things, like being a nurse and making sick patients better with bandages and care.
- I can use words like 'first', 'next' and 'then' when I am telling you a story or telling you about something I have done.
- When I am dressing up or playing with toy people I like to make up stories using what I know, what I have seen or what I have heard to help me.

Talking to your child and listening to what they have to say is important and makes children feel valued. Children like it when their familiar adults take an interest in them and the things that they enjoy.



Top Tips for Supporting your Child's Communication and Language

- Listen to your child and take an interest in things that they enjoy
- Take time to join your child in their play
- Read to your child as often as you can
- Use new and interesting words
- Sing songs and rhymes together
- Use open ended questions like 'What do you think?' and 'What can you see?'
- Talk about what you are doing as you are doing it - out at the shops, while making lunch, while out for a walk. Talk can happen anywhere and everywhere
- Help children to think independently using phrases like 'I wonder...'

Useful resources for communication and language - Online

Hungry Little Minds https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/	Simple, fun activities for children from birth to 5 years.
Tiny Happy People https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people	Tiny Happy People is designed to help you develop your child's communication skills. Explore simple activities and play ideas and find out about children's amazing early development.
Communication Trust https://bit.ly/2HXJoc2	Hints, tips and activity ideas to help you support your child's communication and language development.
Mama Lisa https://www.mamalisa.com/	Books, songs and rhymes from around the world.
CBeebies Songs and Rhymes https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/curations/nursery-rhymes	A selection of songs and rhymes to sing with your child.

Activity suggestions for communication and language - Offline

