

Nursery Knowledge Organiser for Communication and Language

Overview of Communication and Language (CL)

Communication and Language is one of the three Prime areas of the EYFS and is broken down into three aspects:

- Listening and attention,
- Understanding
- Speaking.

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.

Children develop strong language skills when they are involved in playful, language-rich environments with opportunities to learn new words. Hands-on experiences encourage learning and provide a context for new words to be explored

Understanding

Questions		<p>Questions are used to ask something. They try to find out information and end with question marks. E.g. What is your name? or Where is the shop?</p> <p>Questions that begin with 'how' and 'why' (open questions) are great for finding out information in more detail. e.g. 'How did the dinosaurs die out?' or 'Why is the sky blue?'</p>
Rhymes and Jokes		<p>Rhyme is when words have the same ending sounds, e.g. bat, cat, mat.</p> <p>Jokes are things that are funny. Jokes are used to make us laugh!</p>

Key Vocabulary - A wide vocabulary gives children the means to describe what they see, show their knowledge and make comparisons.

Questions, talking, listening, vocabulary, words, pretend, imagination, character, rhyme, poem, story, setting, feelings,

Speaking

Vocabulary	Vocabulary means the words that we know. We should try to learn as many different words as we can.
Discussions	Starting to give their ideas and opinions about things that they hear and see. Using their words to resolve problems and negotiate with others, for example talking about what to do within their play.
Conversations	Using gestures and words when talking to other people. Taking turns when talking, listening to others and responding to what they say.
Listening and Attention	
Listening	Listening to stories and instructions. Listening to instructions with two parts for example "Get your coat and wait by the door". To show good listening children are encouraged to maintain eye contact and give the 'talker' their full attention.

Role Play		Engaging in pretend play by taking on the role of a person, animal or other being and acting out experiences, ideas or stories.
Story telling		Children making up their own stories based on their interests, experiences and imagination. Using props such as puppets, pictures and role play resources as prompts.
Small World		A form of imaginative play which children use props or toys to create playful worlds. They use little toys (like vehicles, animals, people) and put them into a miniature setting, then enact different scenes and situations
Nursery Rhyme		A traditional poem or song for children that often has repetition, rhyme and tells a story.
Language Rich Environment		A thoughtfully designed learning space that actively promotes and encourages the development of children's communication and language. A print rich environment has as many examples of language in written for as possible such as food packaging, magazines and logos.
Modelling		The adults demonstrate how to use language and vocabulary appropriately.