



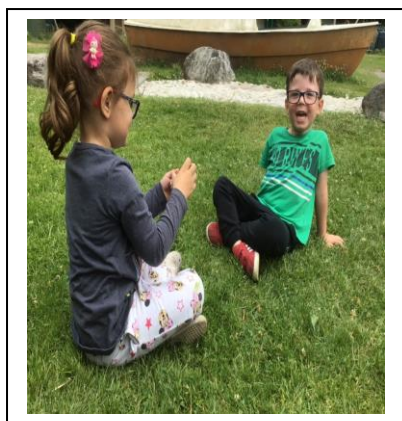
“Nurturing curiosity and inspiring imagination”

Ideas to support your child with communication and language

Communication and language is the essential foundation for children to develop well across all areas of learning. As one of the three ‘Prime Areas of Learning’ within the EYFS curriculum staff at Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School are highly skilled in supporting your child to develop the ability express themselves using language. We will support them to communicate their thoughts and feelings with others as well as understanding what others are communicating to them. This will enable your child to build positive, strong and respectful relationships with others; they will understand that their comments, ideas and questions are valued by others as well as developing skills of listening and attention.

Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School provide a language-rich environment and your child will have lots of conversations both with the adults in nursery and their friends. All staff are trained in strategies that support children’s language development and build children’s language effectively using techniques like talking about what they see your child doing, repeating back what your child has said and extending their sentences by adding words or new vocabulary. Children have frequent opportunities to share stories, songs and poems in both adult led family group time and during children’s ‘free play’. These experiences provide children with opportunities to be introduced to, hear, understand, use and revisit new words in a range of different contexts. For children who need a little bit of extra support with their communication and language we also have a range of additional activities. These activities are led by our specialist trained teaching assistant Michelle, who will work in partnership with you to provide a programme that is tailored to meet your child’s individual needs.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s communication and language development please speak to your key worker who will be happy to help.



Did you know??

The typical 2 year old uses 200 – 300 words. By the time a child is 3 years old they will use 1000 words

The more you talk with your child the more words they will hear, remember and use

Children who have English as an additional language

At Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School we have a number of children each year for whom English is not their home language. This is something we celebrate as we recognise speaking more than one language as lots of advantages

It is vitally important, both culturally and as a way of developing an understanding and use of language, that children continue to develop their home language and we actively encourage parents to speak with their child in this language at home. Room staff will work with you to learn some key phrases in your home language to support your children in nursery. We also have a range of key words and phrases in the most common languages displayed in areas of the learning environment.

As your child begins to learn English it is common that they will go through a quiet phase when they do not say very much and may use words in both languages in the same sentence. Please don’t be concerned about this, it is all part of their learning a new language and developing their confidence.

At home you could

- Make time to talk with your child regularly, make sure there are no distractions – turn off the television, put the phone away and have a conversation where both you and your child talk and listen to each other
- Help your child to learn new words by saying the name and pointing to the object, things like saying 'scissors' as you show these to your child
- Help your child to listen in a conversation or to an instruction by getting down to their level, saying their name and encouraging them to look at you as you give the request, things like 'Filip put your coat on please'
- Help your child to develop their play skills and vocabulary by talking about what you see them doing in their play. Things like 'You're putting the baby to bed', or 'Your car went up the ramp very fast'
- Extend your child's sentences which will encourage them to speak in longer sentences over time. If your child says 'ball' and points to it you could say 'Yes, blue ball'. You can also add words like 'and' or 'because' to encourage your child to join two short sentences together 'Wellies on. It's raining' could become 'Wellies on because it's raining'
- Talk about pictures in books to help your child understand simple stories
- Ask your child simple 'who, what, where' questions – 'Who's that?', 'Where's teddy?', 'What's that noise?' Give them time to understand what you have asked and reply (around 10 seconds)
- Explain the meaning of new words in books or conversation. Things like 'stroll – that's another word for walk'
- Ask 'why' questions – 'Why do you think that the caterpillar got fat?'
- Repeating a sentence to your child if they are having problems. For example if your child says 'I swimmmed' don't correct them, just say 'Yes you swam in the pool today'

Useful Websites



Yakka Dee! – Join Dee, the chatterbox as she encourages children to talk. Each programme looks at a single word and brings it to life

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09g447t>

Something Special – Join Justin and Mr Tumble as he uses sign language to develop children's communication and language skills in fun and exciting ways

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/something-special>



Book trust – a free on-line resource of books and linked activities to try at home and talk about

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/>



Our weekly home learning activities include 'Chatter Boxes'. Each box contains a collection of objects to explore and talk about with your child together.

We would love to hear about your 'chatter box' fun, send us a Tapestry post

IMPORTANT – Please remember to check all website links to ensure the content is appropriate before sharing with your child