



believe and achieve

EYFS: Communication and Language development

Communication and Language

“Communication is fundamental to children’s development; children need to be able to understand and be understood. Communication is the foundation of relationships and is essential for learning, play and social interaction.”

-The Communication Trust

At Nursery we focus on the following aspects: **Listening and attention, Understanding and Speaking**

Listening and Attention	Understanding	Speaking
Listening to stories Having conversations with friends Listening to instructions	Knowing what different words mean Understanding jokes Understanding how answer questions	Talking in a small group with friends Asking questions Talking about ideas Talk about past experiences



Ways you can support your children at home:

- Acting out stories and situations; modelling the use of language extending their understanding of the world (in your home language);
- Singing songs and rhymes together;
- Listening and dancing to music;
- Having conversations, e.g. about what your child did at Nursery; using Tapestry
- Talking through activities at home, e.g. cooking and baking;
- Playing alongside your child when they are playing with characters and telling stories (role-play);
- Playing board games as a family.

Phonics

Phonics is a method of teaching children to read. At Hazelwood we use a high-quality phonics programme published by the Department for Education and Skills in 2007 called ‘Letter and Sounds’. It is designed to help to teach children how the alphabet works for reading and spelling.

It is divided into 6 phases, with each phase building on the skills and knowledge of previous learning. Phase 1 starts in Nursery and gives the children the foundations for the systematic daily programme that starts in Reception and carries on throughout KS1. Its aim is to teach children how to become fluent readers by the age of 7.

Phase 1 is broken down into 7 Aspects:

Aspect 1 - General sound discrimination – environmental

-To raise children’s awareness of the sounds around them and to develop their listening skills.

Aspect 2 - General sound discrimination - instrumental sounds

-To develop children’s awareness of sounds made by instruments.

Aspect 3 - General sound discrimination – body percussion

-To develop children’s awareness of sounds and rhythms.

Aspect 4 - Rhythm and rhyme

-To develop children’s appreciation and experiences of rhythm and rhyme in speech.

Aspect 5 – Alliteration

-To develop understanding of initial sounds.

Aspect 6 - Voice sounds

-To distinguish between different vocal sounds.

Aspect 7 – Oral blending and segmenting

-To develop oral blending and segmenting skills.

Reading

“Research has shown that children who hear stories are the most likely to succeed. Storytelling helps children internalise language patterns, as well as providing them with a rucksack of imaginative possibilities to draw upon when creating. It is worth noting that the most proficient writers in any class are readers.”

- Pie Corbett



Some tips for reading at home with your child:

- Read aloud to your child. It's a great opportunity for you and your child to talk, to be close and share a few laughs. Bed time story is a MUST! Bedtime stories create a feeling of security and love.
- Help your child to choose books that he or she will find really interesting. If he or she is a football fanatic, find a book, poem, comic or magazine which is all about their favourite sport.
- Make sure there are plenty of books at home. Borrow them free of charge from the school library or from your local public library; buy second-hand books from charity shops and car boot sales; give your child a book on birthdays.
- Don't worry if your child wants to listen to the same story over and over again. The most important thing is that your child enjoys listening to stories.
- If English is not the language your family speaks at home, enjoy sharing books written in your home language. It's great for children to hear stories and rhymes in the language that is spoken at home. Children are much better than adults at dealing with two languages.
- Read out signs and talk about them when you are out and about. Remember to ask them to guess what they might mean.

Mark Making

Writing is a very complex skill. In fact, it takes most of child's whole school-life to master it. In Nursery we refer to writing as mark making and celebrate when children ascribe meaning to their marks. Children learn to write by being exposed to words through conversation and reading.

Some tips for mark making at home with your child:

- Play with sticks in mud;
- Draw pictures and make marks with your finger on steamed up mirror during bath;
- Involve your child in 'real' life writing, e.g. writing a birthday card, note for granny, a 'don't-forget' note to stick on the front door, a shopping list or marking important dates on the calendar. KEEP IT REAL;
- Help peg the washing out;
- Do lots of threading, e.g. cheerios on uncooked spaghetti
- Build with Lego; Duplo
- Let them help you to knead dough in the kitchen to strengthen their hand muscles.