

NEW LOGO HERE

Communication and Language Development

Intent

The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development. Their back and forth interactions from an early age form the foundations of language and cognitive development. Our highly qualified staff use good professional practice in child led and adult led play. Practitioners understand that the number and quality of the conversations children have with adults and peers throughout the day in a language rich environment is crucial.

We want children to:

- develop and extend language
- show understanding of spoken and non spoken language
- listen and engage with adults and their peers
- learn through repetitive activities rhythm, rhyme, words and sounds and non verbal expressions and gestures
- become an effective communicator using different means
- be able to communicate in a range of ways which meets their needs such as PECS, Makaton, visuals, gestures and objects of reference

Implementation

At St Joseph's preschool, we offer a rich environment that recognises and supports the importance of communication and language for the future learning of all our children.

Throughout the year communication and language is developed through:

- high quality interactions
- following children's lead and interests
- providing high quality staff training through accreditation as a Communication Friendly Setting
- quality text in fiction and non fiction resources
- having core books – repetitive stories for children to become familiar with
- Keyperson group times
- large group circle time
- daily stories and nursery rhymes
- roleplay areas
- snack time
- dinner time

Within our environment, adults provide lots of opportunities to engage in communication and language through direct teaching with adult and child led activities and learning opportunities in both the inside and outside environment.

We do this by:

- outdoor play – with the continuous provision of loose parts play, water play, mud kitchen and the use of gross and fine motor resources
- indoor play – brick play, role play, craft and messy activities are provided to encourage spontaneous talk and communication through interaction with peers and adults
- adult modelling and direct teaching – group times where adult initiated activities are implemented including the use of visual pictures and symbols
- open ended question opportunities that engage children's interest
- the use of enhanced resources and props

- rolling snack times when children can use signs, photos, words and numbers to build on language that they know and enable adults to scaffold further vocabulary

Impact

At St Joseph's preschool we recognise that children start with us with different levels of communication needs. We have a high cohort of families that have English as an additional language, children with SEN needs and speech and language difficulties. We recognise and understand that all children will learn and develop their communication and language milestones differently and will gain the knowledge of how to accomplish and achieve goals in different ways.

We use tool kits such as Birth to Five, GL assessments and Every Child's a Talker (ECAT) to identify the gaps in their development and to support achievement of their individual milestones.

By the time children leave St Joseph's preschool we want them to:

- confidently communicate their needs, wants and feelings
- experiment with sounds and words
- show understanding of what it is like to be a good listener and have good levels of attention skills
- respond to verbal instructions
- describe and explain things
- use complex and extended sentences in their play
- share their ideas with others
- participate in group activities

Key Vocabulary

Talking, gesture, Makaton, Oral Story Telling, use your words, rhymes, songs, singing, stories, pictures, listening, sharing, turn taking, waiting, egg timer, visuals, show me, find me.