

Language through Play

Children learn best through Play. Play is central to childhood development, everything from social to physical development is enriched through play. Language development is no different. Play supports language in so many ways, as it's when children play that they learn to interact and express themselves. Play offers a low stress environment. This allows children to interact with others while practicing their language skills and building on their ever expanding vocabulary



- Play face to face: Your child needs to see you to share with you
- Be involved, not an observer: play at your child's level and share the activity (on the floor playing with the toys)
- Talk about what you and your child are doing during play
- Set up play activities so that your child has a chance to be active and to use words to take turns (play with cars: "go")
- When you are an active participant in your child's play, you are sharing quality time, while providing important vocabulary and language models

Stories, songs and Rhymes



USING songs, rhymes and picture books is a great way to help your child develop their language and communication skills. It's never too early or too late to start signing and rhyming with your child.

Listening to stories – either told as an oral story or from a book – is crucial for speech and language development and healthy brain development, supporting children's mental, emotional and physical well-being.

There are many benefits to starting early with songs and rhymes. Studies have shown that children who enjoy music, singing and rhyming on a regular basis tend to learn to speak more easily. They have more words to express themselves. They are more confident and creative. Reading and spelling are easier to learn at school.

Further Support

<https://www.icancharity.org.uk/>

I CAN is the children's communication charity. They offer support and guidance to parents and practitioners.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/early-language-and-communication-development-support-for-families-at-home-chat-play-read-booklet/>

The National Literacy Trust offer information on how to talk to your young child.



TCAT TALKS

Supporting
Early
Language
Development





About Us

Your child's school is part of the TCAT Academy Trust. Your child's school has worked in collaboration with other schools in the trust to produce this information.



Our Philosophy

One of the areas that many parents worry about as their child develops is their language development. We believe that providing your child with a rich language environment is the best way to encourage language development in Early Childhood. We hope to provide you with some simple strategies to use together at home.

Why is language important in Early Childhood?

Language development allows your child to:

- Communicate and Understand
- Build relationships
- Express their needs and wants

Words allow the, to make sense of the world around them.

It lays the foundation for their reading and writing later on.

How do you support Language Development in Early Childhood?

One of the best ways you can support language development in Early Childhood is by talking to your baby from birth.

Talking to your child frequently and within daily routines will have the most benefits.

These routines could include:

- Mealtimes
- Bathtime
- Bedtime
- Getting dressed
- Playtime
- Shopping

Narrating Daily activities can be an easy way to promote language skills everyday.



Strategies for Support

- Get down to the child's level. This will help them attend to your language. Let them see your face.
- Follow the child's lead. This gives a strong signal that you are interested in what they are doing. It will help them focus on your language and sustain concentration. Allow the child to choose toys, join in by copying their play then model by playing alongside the child.
- Don't anticipate their needs even though they may not be able to say much – always gives choices, allowing the child to point.
- Avoid asking too many questions. Instead – – Follow the child's lead – Talk about what the child is doing. – Keep sentences short and simple – Provide a running commentary to use and teach vocabulary, grammar and organisation of language. Make your voice interesting to help keep the child's attention.
- Repeat new words many times in many different situations
- Point to real objects at the same time as saying the word, where possible, to make sure the child understands the meaning of the word.
- Allow the child to say and practice the new word (not just hear the adult say it). This will help them remember it.
- Use different senses to encourage the child to learn the word e.g. give opportunities for the child to; use, feel, draw, look at and explore the object they are learning about.