

Developing Communication and Language Skills



Douglas Valley Nursery School

Working in Partnerships with Parents

The importance of developing Communication and Language skills.

What are Communication and Language Skills?

Listening and attention

To communicate effectively it is important that children are able to listen and concentrate.

At Nursery we have small key group sessions and frequent good quality story times when children are encouraged to listen and take part in conversations.

To get attention and know that a child is ready to listen we gain their focus, remove distractions, and make sure they are comfortable.

Understanding

A child's understanding is noticeable when babbling begins to break down into words, knowing that words mean something.

We develop understanding by modeling and extending vocabulary and by describing and talking about experiences.

Story telling is a fantastic way to engage children to enjoy learning and develop their understanding.

Speaking

Along with body language, actions and gesture we use speech to communicate. We use speech to form relationships and express our thoughts and ideas.

One way to support this development is learning nursery rhymes.

Developing a love of books and stories.

Children's experience of listening to stories that we read aloud is an important factor in developing language skills.

Stories increase opportunities for conversations and extend children's thinking, understanding and vocabulary.

Stories broaden children's experience and knowledge and take them into imaginative worlds. We also encourage them to reinvent and tell their own stories.



We will be teaching your child to:

- Listen to their friends and adults.
- Listen to stories and talk about them later.
- Join in with stories and their favourite bits, such as “Who’s been sleeping in my bed?” when reading Goldilocks and the Three Bears.
- Join in with favourite rhymes and learn the words.
- Stop what they are doing, focus and listen when talked to.
- Listen to instructions and carry them out.

Developing skills of listening and giving attention.



- Understand the meaning of words, for example if you ask your child to spread the butter on the bread they know what a knife is.
- Understand simple instructions such as “Put your shoes in the basket, please”
- Begin to understand higher level questions such as “How can we mop up the juice?” and “Why do you need to wear your wellies today?”

Developing skills of understanding.



- Say words and put words together to make sentences.
- Talk about something that has happened.
- Think and use words to ask and answer questions too.
- Talk to their friends and adults naturally and socially while playing.
- Tell us when they need something.
- Enjoy learning and using new words. Use words about things that interest them, like “diplodocus” and “brontosaurus.”
- Use their imagination, pretend and make up their own stories.

Developing the use of speech.



How you can support your child's learning at home.

Listening and Attention

- Play listening games that encourage your child to listen carefully and copy an action, such as "Simon Says...."
- Spend a few minutes a day sharing a book without distractions, talking about the pictures and characters.

Understanding

- Talk to your child about what things are for and describe things giving them first hand experiences to make sense. Tell children the words for things.
- Learn a new word every day.
- Model using language and words correctly.
- Point to pictures in books and talk about what you can see.
- When you and your child are tidying up give simple instructions like "Put your shoes in the basket" or "Put the remote control on the sofa."

Speaking

- Talk together about things you have done or places that you have been.
- Learn at least 3 Nursery Rhymes and do the actions.

Incy Incy spider climbed up the spout,
Down came the rain and washed the spider out.
Out came the sunshine and dried up all the rain
So Incy Wincy spider climbed up the spout again.



Twinkle twinkle little star
How I wonder what you are,
Up above the world so high
Like a diamond in the sky
Twinkle twinkle little star
How I wonder what you are



Baa baa black sheep have you any wool?
Yes sir, yes sir, 3 bags full.
1 for the master and 1 for the dame and
1 for the little boy who lives down the lane.



Please tell us about your child's development.

Name of your child:

Listening and attention

Does your child look at you when you call their name? **Yes/No**

Does your child stop what they are doing, focus and listen to you when you talk to them? **Yes/No**

Does your child enjoy listening to stories? **Yes/No**

What is their favourite book?

Does your child sing nursery rhymes and songs? **Yes/No**

How many nursery rhymes do they know?

Understanding

Can your child follow simple instructions? **Yes/No**

Does your child understand the meaning of words and sentences, for example, if you ask your child to spread the butter on the bread they know that they need a knife? **Yes/No**

Speaking

Does your child communicate by speaking and using words? **Yes/No**

Please can you give an example?

Does your child talk about something that happened, such as a trip to the park or shops? **Yes/No**

Is your child able to tell you what they want or what they want to do?
Yes/No

Does your child ask questions and answer questions too? **Yes/No**

Does your child use their imagination and speech while they play?
Yes/No

Please give to your child's key person and talk to us if you have any concerns. We value your contribution.