

Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School



“Nurturing curiosity and inspiring imagination”

Ideas to support your child with communication and language

The development of communication and language is central to the development of all areas of learning. Communication and language is an important part of everyday life; the ability to communicate effectively ensures that we are able to understand the world, develop relationships, and solve problems. The importance of communication and language is highlighted by the Early Years Foundation Stage legislation which holds communication and language as one of the ‘three prime areas’ of learning and development.

The staff at Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School are highly trained and skilled in supporting the development of communication and language and as such we ensure that our nursery is a language rich environment where quality conversations and interactions are central in our everyday activities. Within our two year old provision we have a mix of structured adult led activities and child led free play, this ensures that children are exposed to conversations with adults and their friends. Our structured activities include a daily story time, sing and sign sessions, group ‘hello time’, weekly cooking activity, weekly woodwork activity and so much more. All of these activities provide an opportunity for new vocabulary to be introduced and children to share their stories, sing their favourite songs and work closely with an adult and their friends. Sometimes children need extra support with their language development and we are very lucky in sunshine room to have Jo, she is a specialist trained teaching assistant that works closely with all of the children to understand each of the children's communication and language skills. Jo ensures that all of the children are supported and we will work in partnership with you to provide tailored information and activities that will support 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 has lots of advantages

It is vitally important, both culturally and as a way of developing an understanding and use of language, which 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...

- **Turn off the TV/Phone/Tablets** and invite your child to play with their favourite toy. Once you are busy playing together, begin to point out and talk about their toys. For example if you were playing with some cars, you could point out the colour of each car, or how many wheels there are. You could ask which car is their favourite, or which of the cars is big or small?
- Try to **share a picture book each day**, if your child enjoys one particular book that's great repeat it again and again. Let your child become an expert, encourage them to tell you about the pictures and the story.
- **Limit screen time** as much as possible as this reduces the opportunity for back and forth conversation. Children may appear to be ignoring you when they are watching a screen and this is because 2 year olds often have rigid attention which makes it really difficult for them to focus on more than one thing at a time.
- **Slow down.** Make sure that when you ask your child a question you give them time to answer it and try to limit the amount of question you ask in a short space of time. This will help your child to process the information and be able to confidently answer you.
- **Get out of the house.** Get out into nature. Children are naturally curious about the world so go on a nature treasure hunt, a bird watching expedition, a cars and colour spotting walk. Turn a simple walk into an opportunity to talk all about the world and what you can see together.
- **Ditch the dummy.** Dummies are great for babies and there are lots of benefits associated with giving your baby a dummy, however as your baby turns into a toddler it's time to start thinking about life without a dummy. This is because dummies hinder the development of the full range of tongue movements, tongue positioning and the pattern of tongue movements which make speech sounds unclear and the pronunciation of certain letters difficult. Dummies can cause gaps between the upper and lower front teeth which could lead to a lisp. Dummies can reduce the desire to communicate.

Useful websites

BBC Tiny Happy People— Nursery rhymes for babies and toddlers: Choose me a rhyme to sing

Explore the BBC's tiny happy people to find resources, activities and ideas to support speech and language development.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/nursery-rhyme-selector/zrfc3j6>

Hungry Little Minds—A government campaign full of simple, fun activities for kids, from newborn to five.



<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

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



<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/>



We offer a range of home learning activities on tapestry please have a look and share any home learning with us, as we love to see what you have been doing at home!

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