

This area of learning

- helps your child to develop good listening and attention skills
- gives opportunities for your child to share and enjoy the language of rhymes, songs and stories
- helps to develop your child's understanding of words and phrases
- helps to develop your child's vocabulary
- encourages your child to communicate his/her thoughts, views and feelings
- encourages your child to talk confidently, play with language and to ask questions

### How can you help your child?

Stop for a minute and listen to what you can hear. You can do this at home or when out and about.

Say and sing action rhymes and songs. This will help your child to become familiar with the rhythms of language and makes talking and listening active and fun.

Share books together at any time of day, at home and outdoors. Even ten minutes a day can help your child

develop a love of books. Take time looking at the pictures and describing them. Talk about the story and characters and be as imaginative as you like.

Repeat and expand on what your child says. If your young child says "juice", you can say "more juice", "juice please" or "juice gone". This shows your child how words can be put together to make short sentences.

If children say words that aren't clear, the best way to help is for you to repeat what they've said using the right words rather than to make them say it again.

Have a special time to talk about the day. One good way to do this is to say "Tell me one thing you enjoyed doing today?"

Play around with words and sounds – think of words that begin with the same sound or words that rhyme. Rhyming is an important skill when learning to read. Make up rhyming nonsense words.

Play quizzes with each other. Describe a character they know and see if they can guess who it is. Then give them a turn to describe and you guess.

## Useful links

**Bookstart** [www.bookstart.org.uk](http://www.bookstart.org.uk)

Lively, interactive site, well reviewed, full of songs, information and tips for parents about early reading. Includes ideas for favourite books for all ages, plus games from the Bear club.

## The Communication Trust

[www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk](http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk)

An informative site full of tips and links, including help if you have concerns about your child's communication skills.

**Talk for meaning** [www.talk4meaning.co.uk](http://www.talk4meaning.co.uk)

A website run by Michael Jones, an independent consultant, with a speech and language therapy and teaching background.

**Words for Life** [www.wordsforlife.org.uk/](http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/)

Full of useful tips and free resources, lively video clips and topical ideas.

**CBeebies** [www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/)

Tips, games and resources from a lively site.

# The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

## Areas of Learning and Development



## Communication and Language

This prime area of the Early Years Foundation Stage helps children to learn to listen, talk and communicate with people around them.