



Communication and Language development involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations. **(Regulatory requirements 2017 Section 1 - The learning and development requirements 1.5)**

Aspects of Communication and Language

- **Listening and attention - ELG1** - Children listen attentively in a range of situations. They listen to stories accurately anticipating key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions. They give their attention to what others say and respond appropriately, while engaged in another activity.
- **Understanding – ELG2** - children follow instructions involving several ideas or actions. They answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events.
- **Speaking – ELG3** - children express themselves effectively, showing awareness of listeners' needs. They use past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events that have happened or are about to happen in the future. They develop their own narratives and explanation by connecting ideas or events.

We do this in various ways including:

- valuing children's talk
- providing opportunities for children to communicate their thoughts ideas and feelings, and to develop conversation with children and adults
- incorporating communication and language development in planned activities in each area of learning
- giving opportunities to share and enjoy a wide range of rhymes, music, songs, poetry, stories and non-fiction books
- encouraging careful listening through games, stories, circle time, music etc.,
- using open ended questioning to stimulate thought and encourage the children to express their own thoughts
 - encouraging children to retell stories, by using story sacks, small world play, puppets
 - encouraging children to create their own stories through helicopter stories. This is where the children tell a story to a teacher who writes it down word for word. The rest of the class are then involved in acting out the child's story in a whole class session
 - encouraging children's imaginative story telling through role play, small world play, sand and water play
 - linking language with physical movement e.g. in action songs and rhymes, cookery, gardening
 - encouraging the children to explore the meaning and sounds of new words