



**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)**

The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development. Children's back-and-forth interactions from an early age form the foundations for language and cognitive development. The number and quality of the conversations they have with adults and peers throughout the day in a language-rich environment is crucial.

#### **Aspects of Communication and Language**

- **Listening, Attention and Understanding ELG4** - Children listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions. They make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding. They hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchanges with their teacher and peers
- **Speaking ELG5**- Children participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary. They offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate. They express their feelings about their experiences using full sentences, including use of past, present and future tenses and making use of conjunctions, with modelling support from their teacher.

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 meanings and sounds of new words