



Language Development Birth-Rising 5's



Overview of Communication and Language Development

This area provides children with opportunities for speaking and listening and ignites children's interest in reading and writing. Positive relationships between children and adults offer the best opportunities to encourage children to communicate their ideas and thoughts. Environments that contain signs, symbols, words, songs and notices offer a rich variety of language based learning opportunities. Such environments should also have books and pictures that take into account interests, backgrounds and cultures. Communication and Language Development is broken down into three aspects: *listening and attention, understanding and speaking.*

Doves (Birth—20 months)

Activity Ideas:

Listening and attention

- Play peek-a-boo with your child behind your hands/ cloth.
- Dance to music with your baby, moving to the music with them in your arm or on your lap. For older babies hold their hands whilst they sit or stand independently.
- Play with sound making toys and objects. Point out the noises that they make for your child to hear.

Benefits to their development:

Listening and attention

- This is a fun game that teaches your child that just because something is out of sight it is has not disappeared and will come back and encourages responses.
- Your baby will begin to associate the movements being made to the rhythm of the music and start to make movements
- Your child will enjoy using the toy to make noises by pushing buttons or moving it. They will begin to associate the noises being made by their movements.



Activity Ideas:

Understanding

- Use mirrors to name and find body parts/ facial features.
- Point out and name objects using single words.
- Use your baby's name when talking to them. Give them eye contact and wait for them to respond.

Benefits to their development:

Understanding

- They will begin to recognise familiar/ repeated words and connect them with their meaning. Babies respond to higher pitched and sing song voices
- This reinforces the word's meaning and your baby will begin to link the objects/ people with words.
- Your child will learn to associate their name with themselves and will begin to respond when hearing their name.

Activity Ideas:

Speaking.

- Copy the sounds your baby makes when babbling.
- When playing with your child respond when they name different objects/ toys by modelling the word for them with praise instead of correcting them.

Benefits to their development:

Speaking.

- Hearing the noises and sounds they make repeated back to them encourages them to communicate.
- Children are beginning to use single words and as their speech develops this will support them in forming the word correctly.



Starlings (16 Months– 2½ Years)



Activity Ideas:

Listening and attention

- Sing action rhymes with your child, encouraging them to join in with the actions.
- Use simple sentences of 3 or 4 words with your child when talking to them to encourage them to form sentences.
- Hide musical/ sound toys around the room for your children to find.

Benefits to their development:

Listening and attention

- This will help your child to tune into the sounds of language and begin to recognise the similarity of rhyming words.
- They will begin to put their words together from single words to placing 2 words together and ultimately a short sentence.
- This will help to develop your child's listening skills as they investigate where the sounds are coming from and they will enjoy finding them.

Activity Ideas:

Understanding

- Whilst reading books ask your child questions about what they can see in the pictures.
- Get your child to help you sort the washing. Can they find familiar items once named?
- Play turn taking games with balls. Ask your child to throw and roll the ball. Praise their efforts with encouragement and smiles.

Benefits to their development:

Understanding

- This will develop your child's interest in books and illustrations. It will give them some involvement in the story.
- This will help them to learn to label the object with its name and help build their vocabulary.
- Your child is beginning to understand simple sentences and will try to carry them out. By linking the instructions with the words your child will learn to follow other simple instructions.

Activity Ideas:

Speaking.

- Use animal and transport noises when playing with your child.
- Encourage your child to ask questions about what they can see around them when out and about.

Benefits to their development:

Speaking.

- This will help the children make the links between an animal/ object and noises associated with them.
- Children have a natural interest and by taking the time to answer repeated questions your child will build up their understanding and embrace their desire for learning.

Kingfishers & Fun Focus (2½ Years—3½) Years)

Activity Ideas:

Listening and attention

- Set aside some cosy time to have stories together. Encourage your child to join in with the repeated words and phrases.
- Talk to your child about their day. What they have done? what they enjoyed?
- Play games that involve instructions and listening eg Simon says touch your arm, Simon says touch your toes.

Benefits to their development:

Listening and attention

- By spending time together you will encourage them to hold their attention for longer periods of time; and listening to repetitive words will help encourage them to listen to what is being said and when to respond/ join in.
- As you listen to your child and respond to what they are telling you, they learn to listen to others and recognise the importance of taking turns in conversations; when to listen and when to talk.
- This will encourage your child to listen for the important cue to the instruction so that they learn that not all instructions may be directed at them

Activity Ideas:

Understanding

- Hide a toy or teddy and give your child positional clues to find it eg behind, under, on.
- Encourage your child to explain their understanding by asking them open ended questions. Use how and why questions, praise their ideas and test out their theories eg water play at bath time.
- Give your child 2/3 consecutive instructions to follow eg 'go and get your shoes and put them on'.

Benefits to their development:

Understanding

- Your child will understand positional words and will be able to use them when communicating.
- Your child will learn how to describe their thoughts and ideas and realise that these ideas are important. By trying out their ideas they will begin to understand the process and learn to adapt their thoughts.
- This will help your child learn to retain multiple pieces of information and to follow instructions through to completion.

Activity Ideas:

Speaking.

- Play imaginative games with your child using objects to represent real things eg a banana for a telephone.
- Use more complex sentences when playing with your child using small world figures eg dolls house, toy garage.

Benefits to their development:

Speaking.

- This will help your child to develop their imagination and recognise that objects can be substituted.
- will help build their vocabulary and help them to learn how to explain their understanding using appropriate words such as why and 'because'.



Pre-School (3½ Years—Rising 5's)

Activity Ideas:

Listening and attention

- Discuss your child's day with them while they are engaged in an activity of their choice
- Play simple board or card games with your child such as snakes and ladders, pairs or matching games and jigsaws.

Benefits to their development:

Listening and attention

- This will help your child to listen and respond appropriately while engaged in a different activity.
- This will help to develop their concentration and to wait patiently for their turn.

Activity Ideas:

Speaking.

- Use opportunities on outings (shops, farm etc) to introduce new words to your child such as the proper names for baby animals.
- Involve your child in practical tasks such as making the dinner and then encourage them to do the same during imaginative games.

Benefits to their development:

Speaking.

- This will help your child to understand groups of objects can be divided into different categories and can apply this to different situations.
- This will help your child to use talk to create different roles when engaging in imaginative play. They will be able to verbally request specific props needed to aid their play.

Activity Ideas:

Understanding

- Listen to CD stories or make up your own stories to tell your child.
- Tell your child simple nonsense jokes and encourage them to make up their own.

Benefits to their development:

Understanding

- Your child will learn to listen to what is being said without the use of props and visual aids and will teach them to listen to the intonation to understand what is being conveyed.
- This will help your child to understand and appreciate humour and make links between 2 meanings.

Early Learning Goal (for the end of reception):

Listening and attention

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

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

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 to happen in the future. They develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas or events.

