



Language Development Workshop for families

Moss Hall Nursery School

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- How children learn to talk
- Why talking is important
- Reflect on your own child's language
- Ideas for supporting children's language development



How Children Learn to Talk

Children learn to talk through hearing and seeing others talk around them.

This starts from birth.

Before children say their first words:

- they must have a need to communicate with others
- hear language being used around them and
- understand that language means something

Children's understanding develops before their talking, so they understand more than they can say.

How Children Learn to Talk

As with all areas of children's development there are typical developmental milestones for learning to talk.

- By 1 year children usually say their first words.
- By 18 months children are usually able to follow simple instructions
- By 2 years children are usually able to put 2/3 words into simple sentences
- By 3 years children are usually able to follow more complex instructions and put 4/5 words into simple sentences.
- By 4 years children can be understood by unfamiliar people
- By 5 years children are usually able to give and follow more complex instructions and speak in more complex sentences

Why talking is important

Talking is a very effective way of communicating !

Through talking children are able to:

- Get attention and communicate their needs
- Share their feelings and emotions
- Give and receive information
- Question, describe and predict
- Follow and give instructions
- Socialise, make friends and maintain relationships

Let's reflect on your child's language

Turn to the person next to you and share how your child communicates:

- Is your child a chatterbox ?
- Can your child follow instructions ?
- Can your child explain themselves to others ?
- Does your child have favourite phrases they repeat ?
- Does your child get upset if they can't describe what they need ?
- Can your child ask questions ?
- How many times a day does your child ask **WHY ? !**

Let's watch this short clip on supporting children's early language development



Ideas for supporting your child's language development

To become good talkers children need to hear lots of good examples and they need lots of practice:

- Listen and talk to your child LOTS !
- Try not to bombard your child with questions but instead describe and narrate what they are doing to extend their language
- Use simple, repetitive language and keep sentences short
- Follow your child's lead when communicating with them
- Get your child's full attention before giving them instructions (cue in with name, make eye contact, give instruction, ask child to repeat)
- Give your child time to process and respond
- Develop your child's listening skills to help them learn to talk

More Ideas for supporting your child's language development

- Make the most of everyday routines for language development (breakfast, bath, bedtime)
- Offer your child choices (do you want milk or juice ?) and then model the response for them
- Build on your child's language (if they say "lorry" you repeat "yes, I can see a big red lorry")
- Try not to correct pronunciation, instead model the correct way of saying the word back to your child (if they say "sun is lellow", you repeat "yes, the sun is yellow")
- Try to ask open ended questions, not ones that only require a yes/no response
- Have fun ! Don't be afraid to be silly and have fun with language when communicating with your child

Useful Websites for further information:

- www.ican.org.uk
- www.talkingpoint.org.uk