



# Language Development Workshop for families

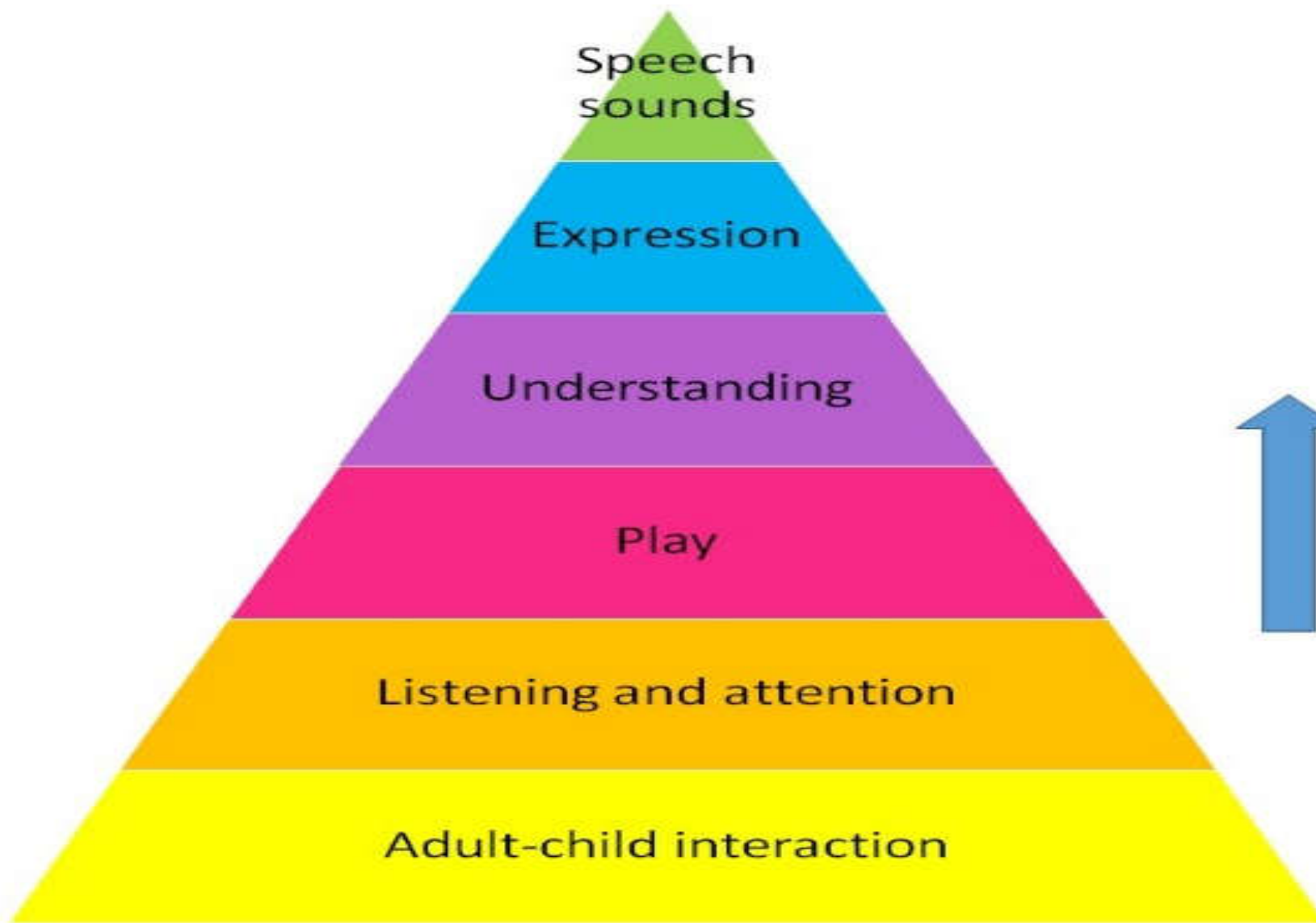
Moss Hall Nursery School

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- The Language Development Pyramid
- How children learn to talk
- Why talking is important
- Ideas for supporting children's language development







## Adult-Child Interaction

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

It is never too early to start.

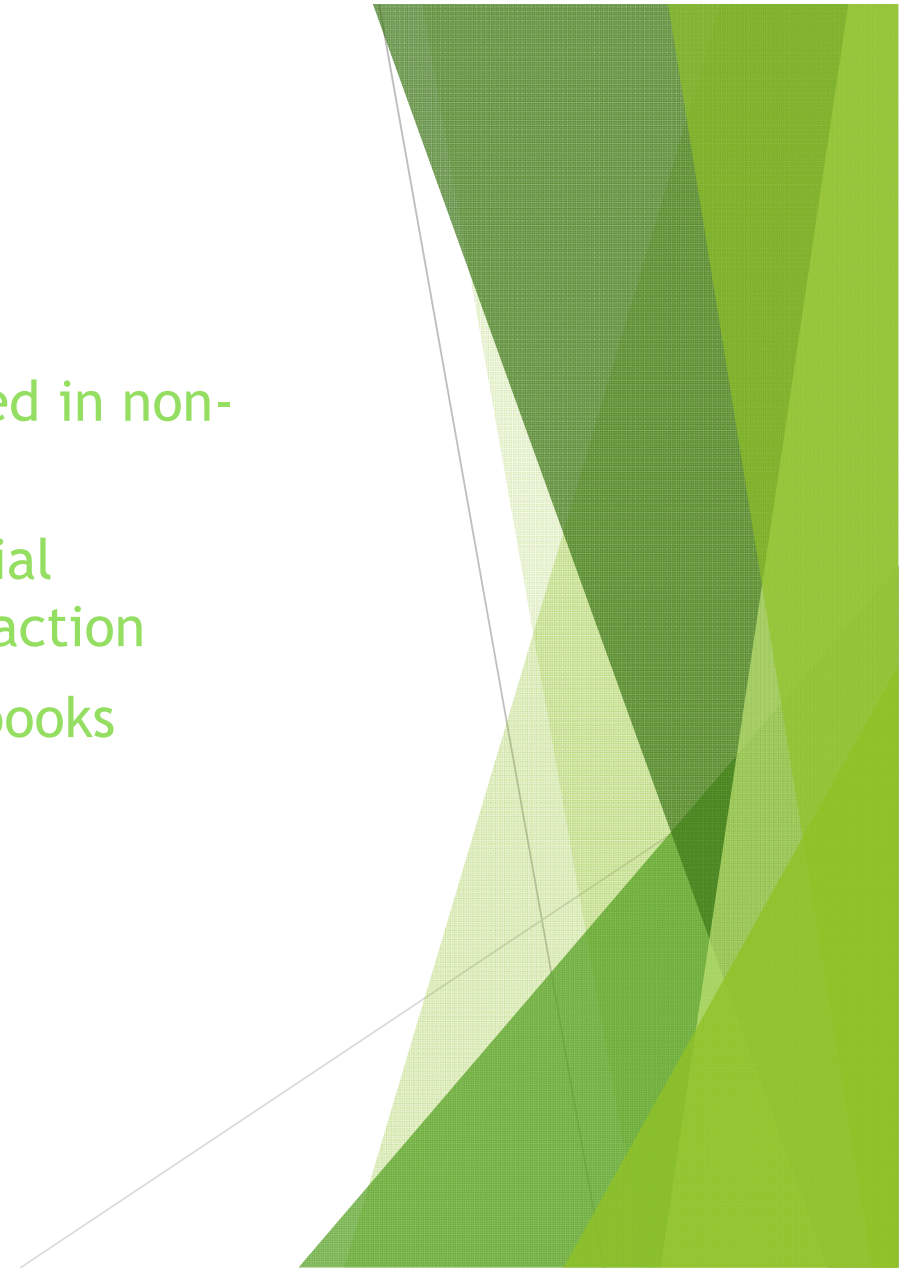
- Talk about what you are doing
- Singing
- Repeat sounds back
- Sounds, actions, eye gaze will become more deliberate as child realises they cause a response

## Listening and Attention

- This is very often regarded as the most important phase of developing communication skills
- Children need to focus on and hear what is being said
- Saying name
- Reduce background noises and distractions
- Keep language simple
- At this stage children are building up their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar

## Play

- Children able to practice what they have learned in non-threatening ways
- Develop social skills - eye contact, gesture, facial expression, intonation, co-operative play, interaction
- Helped by role-play, small world play, reading books
- Basis of Early Years' education and is child-led





## Understanding or Receptive Language

- The capacity to respond and understand what is being said to us
- Essential for learning new skills and forming relationships
- Spoken stories without pictures or props
- Gently remind your child about the conversation
- Simplify language
- Describe what your child is doing
- Keep instructions simple



## Expression

- Vocabulary
- Grammar
- Use of sentences
- Telling familiar stories in correct order.





## Speech

- The tip of the iceberg
- Letter sounds develop at different ages
- Model correct language
- Do not ask child to repeat it



## 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





## 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 !
- 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

## 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")
- Have fun ! Don't be afraid to be silly and have fun with language when communicating with your child
- You do not need to test your children - chat to them.

## Useful Websites for further information:

- [www.ican.org.uk](http://www.ican.org.uk)
- [www.talkingpoint.org.uk](http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk)
- [www.afasic.org.uk](http://www.afasic.org.uk)

