

Understanding



Children need to develop a good understanding of the world around them to help them learn and develop.

Below are some activities you can do at home to develop understanding.

Activities to promote understanding:

-Shopping - Get some food and other items from your kitchen. You will also need a shopping bag. Start by naming one item for your child to put in their bag. Keep increasing the difficulty by asking them to remember 2 or 3 items at a time.

-Post office - Make a small letter box from an old cardboard box. Find a selection of items from around the house. Ask your child to post a particular item. Again, increase the difficulty by asking them to remember 2 or 3 items to post.

-Puppets - Find a puppet or soft toy. Use the puppet or soft toy to give instructions to your child. For example, touch your nose, put the book under the chair or find the red car.

If you would like more ideas on how to support your child and their speaking and listening skills, check out the website below:

[https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201165/
preparing_your_child_for_primary_school/2407/
developing_language_skills_for_young_children/6](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201165/preparing_your_child_for_primary_school/2407/developing_language_skills_for_young_children/6)

Communication and Language

An information guide for parents/carers

Speaking and listening are at the heart of children's learning. Children need to be confident communicators and active listeners in order to learn about the world around them.

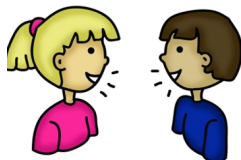
As a parent/carer you can play a crucial role in developing your child's communication skills. From birth, parents are a child's first teacher and provide a powerful example of good communication.

By developing your child's speaking and listening skills, you are supporting the development of early reading. Your child will be able to hold their attention longer, listen to more complex stories, talk about what they have heard and answer questions about what has been read to them. These are all skills which help shape them into good readers.

In this leaflet, you will find more information about speaking and listening. You will also find activity ideas for you to try at home with your child. If you have English as an Additional Language, these activities can be done in your home language. Demonstrations of the activities can be seen in the videos posted on the class pages of the school website and on Google Classroom.

Thank you for your continued support.

A good speaker...



Good speakers need to develop the following skills:

- Use a range of vocabulary.
- Speak in a clear voice.
- Make eye contact with the person listening to them.
- Start making longer contributions in conversation, using more than 1 or 2 words.

Activities to promote speaking:

-Taking turns - Try a turn taking game with your child. This could be building towers, playing a board game or throwing a ball to each other. Encourage your child to use the phrases “my turn” and “your turn” whilst playing.

-Story time - Share a story with your child. This could be a book or a story about your own memories. Encourage your child to talk about what they have just heard. When using a picture book, encourage your child to say what they think will happen by looking at the pictures. You could also encourage your child to make up their own stories.

-Talk - Talking to your child is one of the best things you could do to encourage speaking. Watch a TV show together and talk about it afterwards, talk about what they did at school or

A good listener...

Good listeners need to develop the following skills:

- Make eye contact with the person who is speaking.
- Listen carefully to the conversation.
- Respond appropriately to the person who is speaking.
- Begin to ask questions which are relevant to the conversation.

Activities to promote listening:

-Spot the mistake - Sing a nursery rhyme your child knows to them. Make mistakes as you sing it. Encourage your child to listen and spot the mistake. Sing the correct version with your child afterwards.

-Go games - Sit with your child and play a game. This could be building a tower, having a race with a toy car or rolling a ball to each other. Before your child knocks the tower over, pushes the car or rolls the ball they must listen for the word “go”. Before saying the word “go”, make sure your child is making eye contact with you.

