

Communication & Language at Ditton Nursery School: Giving Your Child a Voice for Life

We believe that communication and language are the absolute foundations for your child's happiness, learning, and future success. Being able to understand and use language helps children make friends, share their feelings, express their ideas, and learn how to manage their emotions.

Every child starts nursery at a different stage in their language journey. Wherever your child is right now, we are here to support them to reach their full potential.

Celebrating Home Languages (EAL)

Speaking more than one language is a wonderful superpower! If your child speaks another language at home, we completely celebrate and encourage this. We want them to keep using their home language while we help them learn English. To make sure they feel understood and included from day one, we use pictures, gestures, visual prompts, and even learn key words from your child's home language.

How We Support Your Child Every Day

Our staff focus on high-quality, back-and-forth conversations with your child. We do this in three main ways:

- One-to-One Time: Individual chat and connection with their Key Person.
- Small Groups: Cosy learning circles with just 2 or 3 friends together.
- Larger Groups: Fun group activities with up to 5 children (2-year-olds) and 13 children (3–4-year-olds).

Turning Play into Learning

Our team works alongside your child as they play. We comment on what they are doing, build on their ideas, introduce exciting new words, and ask questions that match their level of understanding. We also use your child's personal fascinations, favourite stories, and daily songs and rhymes to stretch their vocabulary naturally.

Identifying Needs Early & Giving Extra Help

To ensure no child misses out, we use a friendly screening tool called WellComm. This helps us see exactly how your child understands and uses language.

- If a child is a little bit behind, we don't wait. We use a 'good teaching' approach to give them extra attention throughout the day.
- If they need an extra boost, we run an Early Talk Boost programme which includes targeted games focusing on listening, sentence-building, or learning describing words.
- If we feel a child needs expert help, we will always chat with you first and work together to refer them to the local Speech and Language service for specialist support.