



UNIQUE
CHILD



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At Longton Nursery, Communication and Language are central to everything we do. Interactions with children to develop their communication and language skills are woven throughout all six aspects of our Unique Child. We believe that speaking, listening, and effective communication are essential for achieving these developmental goals. When we identify children who may be struggling, we implement a range of targeted interventions to support and strengthen their communication skills.

To help children reach their full potential and truly shine, we have a set of progressive milestones that guide their development. All keyworkers are well-acquainted with these milestones and support children during free play, encouraging them to build on their existing skills. This approach fosters motivated, independent learners who are curious about activities, confident in problem-solving, and effective communicators, while their imagination and knowledge continue to grow.





CONFIDENT AND INDEPENDENT



- I can do things by myself
- I am confident and independent in new situations and when trying out my own ideas
- I enjoy taking risks, engaging in new experiences
- I am able to share and explain my ideas
- I like to share my experiences with others

Journey to Mastery

First Milestone

- I will confidently enter the setting and separate from my carer.
- I will be able to interact with people who are important to me.
- I will be able to control my own body through lots of practice with physical skills.
- I will be able to reach out for different objects.

Second Milestone

- I will be able to play on my own and with other children.
- I will make my own choices in the activities I try.
- I will gain independence. This may cause me to become frustrated or reject help from others.

Third Milestone

- I will be able to select and use activities and resources with some help when needed.
- I will be able to carry out appropriate daily tasks.

Fourth Milestone

- I will feel more confident to play with one or more children.
- I will be able to find solutions to conflicts.
- I will make independent choices.
- I will be able to reflect upon and articulate my learning.



CURIOUS



- I am curious when I see something new
- I like to understand how things work
- I am inquisitive and like to find out how, where, why...
- I am eager to explore the world around me

Journey to Mastery

First Milestone

- I will use all my senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials.
- I will explore repeated patterns of behaviour to find out how things work.
- I will look around with interest and smile at recognisable things.

Second Milestone

- I will look for objects that I like to play with.
- I will become absorbed in combining objects to find out about how they work.

Third Milestone

- I will notice detail features of objects in my environment and I can use these in my play.
- I will ask questions to clarify my thinking about the world and how things work.

Fourth Milestone

- I will be able to explain the key features of the life cycle of a plant and animal.
- I will explore simple mechanisms and learn how to operate them.
- I will make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur and talk about changes.



MOTIVATED



- I show high levels of energy and interest
- I will keep on trying until I can do it!
- I am eager to be involved in my own learning
- I want to learn new things and new ways of doing things

Journey to Mastery

First Milestone

- I will tolerate familiar routines and activities. Eg feed time, sleep time.
- I will show a deep drive to know more about objects around me. Eg stretching for objects during tummy time.

Second Milestone

- I will show delight in mastering a new skill.
- I am eager and confident to explore and experiment.
- I will gain satisfaction in repeating patterns of activity.

Third Milestone

- I will bring their own interests and fascinations into nursery. This will help me to develop my learning.
- I will begin to notice details and maintain attention for longer periods of time.

Fourth Milestone

- I will show high levels of involvement, energy and fascination.
- I will persist with activities when challenges occur.
- I will bounce back after facing difficulties with an activity. (growth mindset)



CREATIVE AND IMAGINATIVE



- I can think of my own ideas and try them out
- I show high levels of fascination
- I like to find new ways to do things and sharing these ideas with my friends
- I use my imaginations to learn about the world, create and pretend

Journey to Mastery

First Milestone

- I will show attention to sounds and music.
- I will use whole body movements to experiment with space, texture, sounds, rhythms, materials and tools.

Second Milestone

- I will enjoy and take part in action songs.
- I will engage in activities that leave marks on a page or on a surface.
- I will be able to engage in pretend play, pretending that one object represents another.

Third Milestone

- I will use my imagination as I consider what I can do with different materials.
- I will begin to develop stories using small world equipment.
- I will use objects to represent something else in my play. Eg. blocks as mobile phones.

Fourth Milestone

- I will begin to develop my own ideas and then decide which materials to use and what to make.
- I will be able to draw with increasing complexity and detail, such as representing a face with a circle and including details.
- I will show different emotions in my drawings.
- I will respond to what I have hear, expressing my thoughts and feelings.
- I will explore and use a variety artistic effects.



PROBLEM SOLVER



- I persist and never give up finding new ways to do things
- I am encouraged and supported to think of ideas to solve the problems I come across
- I try out my ideas and learn through trial and error
- We celebrate when I've done it

Journey to Mastery

First Milestone

- I will use all my senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials.
- I will show curiosity about objects, events and people.

Second Milestone

- I will be able to identify a problem and with adult support explore ideas I have to solve the issue. They will talk about what is happening.
- I will remember where objects belong and I can match parts of objects together.

Third Milestone

- I will begin to suggest ideas of how to solve an adult planned challenge.
- I will be able to collaborate with my key worker to solve problems.
- I will be able to talk about what I have seen and try to explain why.

Fourth Milestone

- I will pose my own lines of enquiry. I will be able to gather the resources that I need and test my ideas.
- I will activate prior knowledge to inform my ideas.
- I will ask questions such as 'what will happen if I?' and 'I wonder why?' and I use phrases such as 'I think...', 'I know...' and 'I believe...'
- I will show persistence in testing out my ideas.



GOOD COMMUNICATOR



- I can listen to others
- I can share my thoughts, feelings and ideas with others through gestures, expressions and words

Journey to Mastery

First Milestone

- I will gaze at faces and copy facial expressions.
- I will turn towards familiar sounds.
- I will make sounds to get attention in different ways.
- I will understand and begin to use single words. Eg 'bye-bye'

Second Milestone

- I will understand and respond to simple instructions eg. 'stop' I will be able to ask simple questions.
- I will be able to put together two or three words. Eg 'more milk?'

Third Milestone

- I will be able to use language to share feelings and ideas.
- I will be able to follow simple two part instructions.
- I will be able to understand action words.

Fourth Milestone

- I will be able to start a conversation with an adult and will continue it for many turns. (back and forth conversations)
- I will be able to answer simple 'why' questions.
- I will use the future and past tense e.g "I am going to the park" , "I went to the shop."