

Supporting your child's speaking and listening at home

Learning to speak, listen and attend to others are all essential skills when it comes to Nursery. We want your children to continue to develop these skills at home. For some of your children, speaking comes naturally and they have a lot of words in their vocabulary. No matter what the ability of your children, we need to continue to develop their communication skills as much as possible.

To support in developing their communication skills:

- Lower yourself to the same height as your child.
- Make eye contact when you're talking to them and try to maintain this as much as possible. Don't insist that your child looks at your eyes, this breaks the flow.
- Teach children new words when they encounter things in their home. Once they know that word, e.g. platter, extend this by adding an adjective (describing word) e.g. beautiful platter. Then build this into a sentence, e.g. I have got the beautiful platter.
- Sing familiar Nursery rhymes (see enclosed pack.)
- Practice making loud and quiet sounds using their mouths as well as instruments such as a wooden spoon on an upturned pan.
- Play matching games (see the enclosed pack.)
- Read stories together, stop and talk about new words giving them context. (E.g. '... from Donaldson's dairy' - pausing to explain dairy)

Remember the most important thing is that your child is able to speak as much as possible with confidence, listening to others and responding appropriately.