

# Helping with Speech, Language and Communication Needs

## Slide 1

Welcome to the SEN Early Years Inclusion Service.

This presentation will provide you with information on speech, language and communication needs and how you can help your child improve their language skills.

## Slide 2

There are many forms of speech, language and communication needs and every child's needs will differ.

A child can have difficulties:

- listening to someone else
- paying attention
- understanding language, their **receptive Language**
- saying words and putting them together, their **expressive Language**
- or saying speech sounds clearly

Receptive language is what your child hears and understands, the input.

Expressive language is what your child says or attempts, the output.

Communication can be in the form of speech or other sounds, and also through gesture, expression, signing, pointing and looking.

Nursery rhymes and action songs are great ways to develop speech sounds and other important language skills.

A child needs to hear language before they can use it.

A child who doesn't hear well will have difficulty understanding and producing correct language.

If you have any concerns about your child's hearing, it may be a good idea to have their hearing checked.

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This is the language skills pyramid.

As you can see there are many levels to our pyramid and all of these levels are important.

Play and attention and listening are the foundation skills which support the skills at the top, but we will notice difficulties with spoken language more easily.

Play helps your child to listen, focus, take turns and interact with others. Children need to hear and understand language before they can use it well.

It is important to play with your child as this helps all their language skills to improve.

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Play, chat, do lots with your child.

Interacting, playing, talking, singing and stimulating your child's imagination all help to improve your child's language skills. Everything you say and do helps them learn.

Talking about what you see and what you do helps their understanding of language. Simple things like looking out of the window – "Look at that little bird" or "That's a big tree".

Playing together – and talking about what you are doing.

Do little jobs around the house, and explain what you are doing or sing whilst doing them and most importantly have fun together.

#### Slide 5

Getting down to your child's level.

We all prefer to talk face to face, so of course our little ones will prefer this too.

Talking face to face gives your child clues to what you are talking about or how you are feeling and will encourage eye contact and more responses.

#### Slide 6

Getting your child's attention

It is very important that your child is paying attention to hear and understand what you are saying.

Say your child's name, or touch their arm gently. Ensure there are no distractions such as the TV, or devices and use lots of gestures, expression and actions to help your child understand what you are saying.

#### Slide 7

Slow down.

It is important that you give your child time to think and process what you have said before they can respond. By pausing, slowing down and keeping what you are saying short and simple will help them to think about their response and how they will answer. For e.g. Look, it's your ball!

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Joining in, taking part in activities with your child will not only be fun for them but gives you the chance to let them lead. Copy what they are doing, let them tell you what to do and avoid asking too many questions.

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Building your child's language knowledge is very important. One way of doing this is repeating what they say and adding to it, for example – Car – Yes, it's a red car! Or replace words to help them, for example Car goed fast – yes, the car went fast

Adding new words and modelling the correct way to say words and sentences helps them learn, and helps to increase their language knowledge.

### Slide 10

#### Taking turns

It is important your child learns how to interact with others. You can help by teaching them to listen and wait before responding.

Taking turns both verbally and physically when playing is important. Encourage your child to lead the activity or tell you what to do and respond, for e.g. "You paint the wall" – "OK, I'm painting the wall white".

### Slide 11

#### Routine

You can use everyday routines to help build your child's language base.

Repetitive language with everyday tasks such as "put the toys **in** the box" will help them to understand instructions, or putting a coat on – "arm in" or going up the stairs and counting 1, 2, and 3 or just saying, up, up up.

Using gestures and pointing to things – "Look at that big tree".

Children need to hear lots of language before they can use it and everyday activities like these are great for learning.

### Slide 12

#### Choices.

Giving choices to your child gives them the language to say what they want.

Using visuals, objects or pictures help them to understand the choices and then make a decision but it is most important not to overwhelm them with too many choices.

All attempts at communication whether this be pointing, gestures or words should be praised and welcomed to encourage more.

### Slide 13

Stories and rhymes.

Children love rhyme, rhythm and repetition. The use of nursery rhymes and rhythms develops attention and listening skills and speech sounds.

You can have fun, sing songs and teach the words with actions.

Leave gaps for your child to join in.

“I’ll huff and I’ll puff and I’ll.....blow your house down.”

Make silly mistake that they can correct and let them fill in the gaps.

“Humpty Dumpty sat on the chair”... “No he didn’t, he sat on the ..... wall”.

All of this will help your child’s language skills and provide a fun, bonding session for both you and them.

### Slide 14

Describing, explaining and commenting are all part of helping your child develop their understanding and learning of new words.

Do not ask too many questions and remember, a good rule of thumb is one question for every four comments.

The cow is IN the field.

The sheep in IN the field.

The horse is IN the field.

The pig is in the field.

Where is the cow?

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Good luck, have fun, have a look at our other resources and enjoy helping your child build their language skills.