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Chatter Matters!

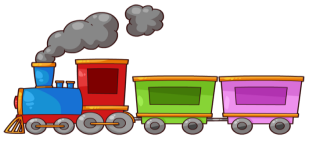
Welcome to our first newsletter Chatter Matters. With contributions from across the Early Years team the purpose of this newsletter is to share and celebrate all things related to communication and language . We will also be providing tips and ideas on how you can support your child's communication and language development at home. We hope you find it useful and welcome any suggestions or contributions that you may have.

Why communication and language is so Important

Early language and communication skills are crucial for children's success in school and beyond. Language and communication skills include the ability to understand others (i.e., receptive language) and express oneself (i.e., expressive language) using words, gestures, or facial expressions. Children who develop strong language and communication skills are more likely to arrive at school ready to learn. They also are less likely to have difficulties learning to read and are more likely to have higher levels of achievement in school.

Communication & Language in Owl's Room
Ideas to support your child at home

- Adding words to your child's sentences can show them how words fit together. For example, if a child says 'dolly hair' you can say 'brush dolly's hair'.
- Often children enjoy helping. Sharing daily jobs gives a chance to talk about objects and actions.
- Use puppets and pictures to help your child listen to stories. Don't be afraid to tell a story more than once. Repetition helps children to understand and remember words.



Communication & Language in Robin's Room
Jo enjoying a 'what's in the box ' session with the children

Jo's Top Tips

- Sing nursery rhymes with actions like 'incey-wincey-spider'. Play games like 'pat-a-cake' and 'peek-a-boo'. These connect words to actions and help your child to understand and remember words.
- Use toys and objects that make a noise also noisy books help children's attention and listening skills.
- Talk to your child about what you are doing, such as 'Mummy is putting shoes on'. This will help them to connect words to the world around them.
- If your child is pointing at something, tell them what it is. If they try to say the word, say it back to them.
- Name the objects your child sees. This could be their toys, clothes, parts of their body or household objects. The more your child hears the word the more they will remember it.

Having fun with words and rhymes can help children learn skills they need for reading and writing. In Reception our topic this term is Journey's. As part of our focus on communication and language we will be learning new journey/transport themed rhymes using familiar tunes. Why not spend time with your child learning and making up actions for this rhyme!

The Train Journey (to the tune of 'London's Burning'

Pack your suitcase, pack your suitcase
Buy your ticket, buy your ticket
Choo,choo! Choo choo!
Hop aboard now, hop aboard now!

Off we go now, off we go now,
Moving quickly, moving quickly
Choo choo! Choo choo!
We've arrived now, we've arrived now!