



Communication and Language (CL)

Area Overview

At St Keyna, we believe Communication and Language is at the heart of all learning. Children who are confident communicators are better able to build relationships, express their ideas, solve problems and access every area of the curriculum. Language development begins through warm, responsive interactions and is strengthened through meaningful conversations, high-quality stories, songs, rhymes and play. Our curriculum is designed to immerse children in rich language experiences from their first day in Nursery 1. Adults model ambitious vocabulary, encourage sustained conversations and create opportunities for children to listen carefully, understand increasingly complex language and communicate their own thoughts with confidence.

Progression begins with children learning to listen, understand and communicate their immediate needs in Nursery 1. During Nursery 2, children become increasingly confident speakers, listeners and conversational partners. By the end of Reception, children leave as confident communicators who can participate in discussions, explain their thinking and use an increasingly sophisticated vocabulary to express themselves.

Why this area matters?

Communication and Language underpins every aspect of children's development. It enables children to understand the world around them, build positive relationships and become successful learners.

High-quality Communication and Language experiences help children to:

- Develop confidence when speaking.
- Build secure relationships with adults and peers.
- Understand increasingly complex language.
- Develop vocabulary across all areas of learning.
- Express ideas, feelings and opinions clearly.
- Listen attentively and respond appropriately.
- Develop early reading and writing skills.
- Become confident learners who are prepared for Key Stage One.

Supporting Communication and Language at home:

Talk together – talk to your child throughout the day.

Use story time – read stories regularly, talk about the pictures and ask questions about the characters and what is happening.

Sing songs and rhymes – sing nursery rhymes and songs together.

Listen to your child – give your child time to talk and show interest in what they have to say.

Build vocabulary – introduce new words during everyday activities.

Ask questions – such as "What happened?", "Why?" and "What do you think will happen next?" to encourage your child to think and explain their ideas.

Encourage conversation – talk about your child's day, experiences and interests.

Play together – pretend play, role play, small-world play and simple games.

Give simple instructions – encourage your child to follow instructions.

Explore the world together – talk about what you see when you are out and about.

Vocabulary Progression

Nursery Year 1

listen	goodbye
look	book
talk	story
say	song
more	my turn
finished	your turn
help	who
please	what
thank you	hello
	where

Nursery Year 2

because	middle
remember	end
describe	before
explain	after
question	next
answer	first
conversation	different
character	same
beginning	predict
carefully	wonder

Reception

discussion	imagine
opinion	conversation
explain	confident
predict	vocabulary
compare	similar
sequence	different
describe	reason
clarify	evidence
remember	community
	experience



Listening, Attention and Understanding		
Nursery Year 1	Nursery Year 2	Reception Early Learning Goals
• Listens during short interactions and familiar group times. • Responds to simple questions and follows one-step instructions with support.	• Sustains attention during longer group sessions. • Follows two-step instructions independently. • Responds thoughtfully to stories, discussions and questions.	• Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions. • Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding. • Hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchanges with their teacher and peers.
Speaking		
Nursery Year 1	Nursery Year 2	Reception Early Learning Goals
• Uses simple words and short sentences to communicate needs, ideas and experiences. • Begins taking turns in conversations.	• Speaks confidently using longer sentences, • Explains ideas, retells events and uses recently introduced vocabulary appropriately.	• Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary. • Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate. • Express their ideas and feelings about their experiences using full sentences, including use of past, present and future tenses and making use of conjunctions, with modelling and support from their teacher.