

EFFECTIVE
COMMUNICATION

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

- '**Communication and language** development involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.'
- 'Language is the key to learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and beyond. The acquisition of language is the single most important and complex skill a child learns in their first five years.'
- Communication and Language (C&L) is one of the prime areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage and as such, underpins successful learning in the specific areas, including Literacy and Mathematics.
- The Communication and Language area of learning has three strands: 'Listening and attention', 'Understanding' and 'Speaking'.
- Children's abilities to express their ideas fluently, drawing upon a rich store of words, expressions, sentences and different types of language, have been created by many, many conversations with interested adults.

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The following **strategies** can make a big difference, when communicating with your child :

- **Be face-to-face with your child:** every time you talk to your child make sure you are face-to-face with them and down at their level - this makes it easier for them to hear what you say and see your mouth moving.
- Help them focus on you talking, by **making sure you have their attention** before you talk to them.
- **Talk slowly and clearly** so that they have a chance to keep up with what you say.

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- **Showing objects or pictures and using gestures** that go with what you say really helps children learn what words mean.
- Switch off the TV, phones, computers, etc., so there are **no distractions** whilst you play and interact with your child; giving them all your attention without distractions in the background will enable them to concentrate more on their communication with you.
- **Always respond** to your child when they try to communicate with you: let them know that what they have to say is important to you - this will motivate them to keep trying.