

Communication and Language

Our Curriculum Intentions at Monkchester Road Nursery School

Even before they are born, children's experiences in the womb lay the foundations for communication. Babies use their bodies, facial expressions, gestures, sounds and movements to gain our attention and make connections with those around them.

Babies, toddlers and young children depend on the back and forth interactions with others who respond to them. The number and quality of these back and forth interactions with adults and friends are crucial. These quality interactions help children become confident and capable communicators.

By commenting on what children are interested in and what they are doing, our staff build children's language well. Staff echo back what children say, adding new vocabulary and providing strong role models for speaking and listening.

We know that children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning in the rest of our curriculum and ensure that it sits at the heart of everything we do to help children make progress. Staff read to children at least once every day. They engage children in stories, non-fiction books, rhyme, songs and poems to give many opportunities so that our children learn, use and remember new words. Giving children the chance to listen to and talk about activities in many different contexts helps them to embed their grasp of new words and allows them to thrive.

Our staff use their conversations with children, encourage storytelling and help children develop their own role-play scenarios to engage children in fun activities based on their interests. These activities help children share their own ideas with support and modelling from their teachers.

Our staff invite children to join in conversations with sensitive questions about things children are interested in. Close relationships develop with children so that they are happy to elaborate their ideas, share their thinking and become comfortable using a rich range of vocabulary and new language structures for speaking more clearly.

Our staff understand that communication and language is more than just words. As children grow, they begin to be more aware of different sounds, symbols and words in their everyday world. This is why our staff make sure that we surround children in a language rich environment – indoors and outdoors. We know that children's language and communication skills intertwine with their physical, social and emotional abilities and experiences. Therefore, we ensure that we promote these skills alongside activities that improve speaking, listening, understanding and attention.

