

Prime Area - Communication and Language

- Listening and Attention
- Understanding
- Speaking



Communication and Language – Prime Area

Listening and Attention ELG	Understanding ELG	Speaking ELG
Children listen attentively in a range of situations. They listen to stories, accurately anticipating key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions. They give their attention to what others say and respond appropriately, while engaged in another activity.	Children follow instructions involving several ideas or actions. They answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events	Children express themselves effectively, showing awareness of listeners' needs. They use past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future. They develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas or events.

Communication and Language

Children learn about language and how to communicate in a variety of different ways.

In the Early Years PLAY is the most common and effective way of teaching children new words and showing them how to communicate.

During the Autumn term activities will be planned that promote language development. These will include; whole class and small group discussions, extended questioning, role play scenarios etc.



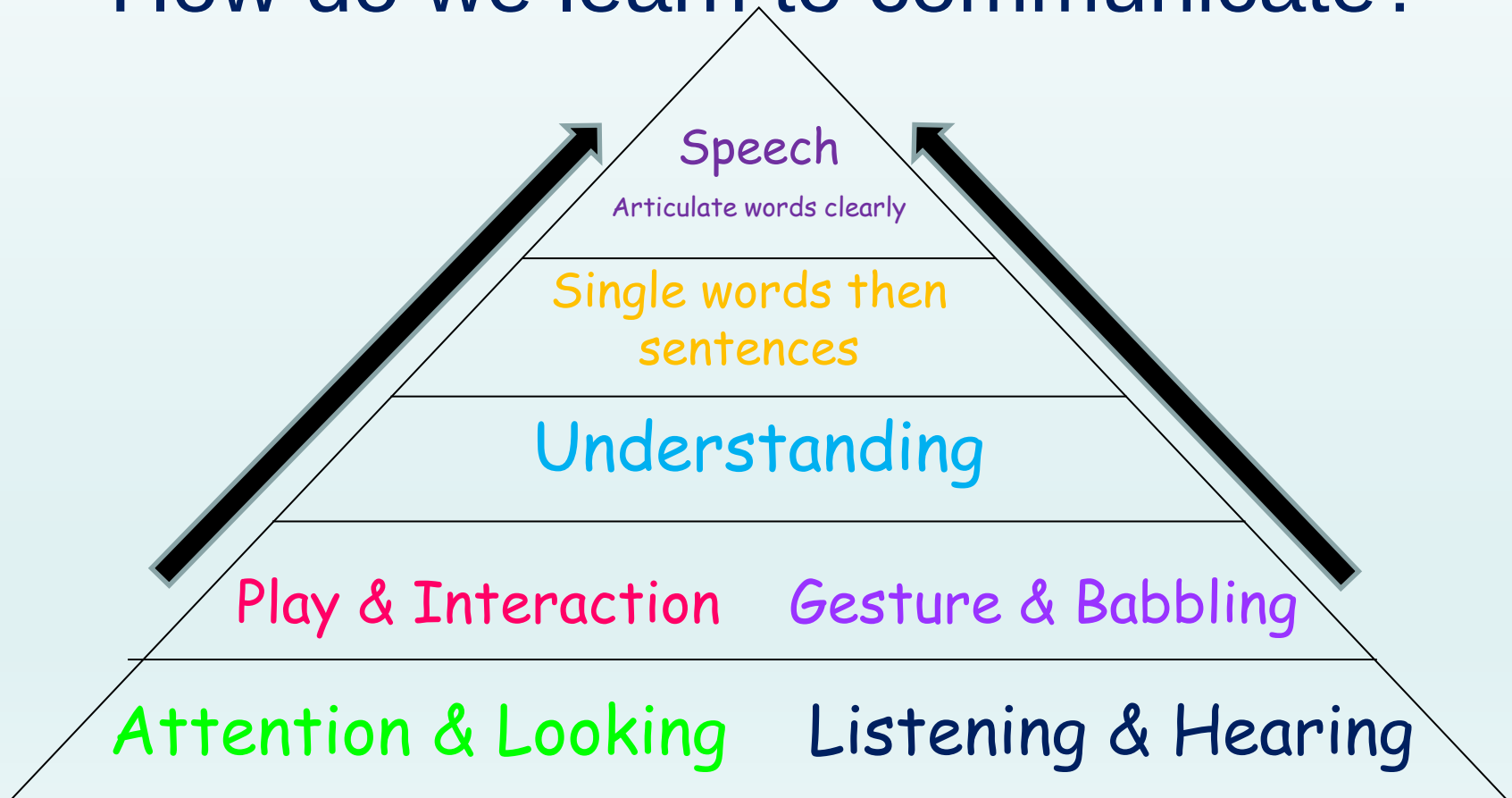
As a parents YOU are your child's most important teacher.



Birth to 7 years is a critical time in a child's life to develop communication & language and for the majority of the time they are with parents.

Making sure children have **good language and communication skills** is key for being an effective learner. It is important that children can understand what is being said to them and that they can let others know what they want, need and feel.

How do we learn to communicate?

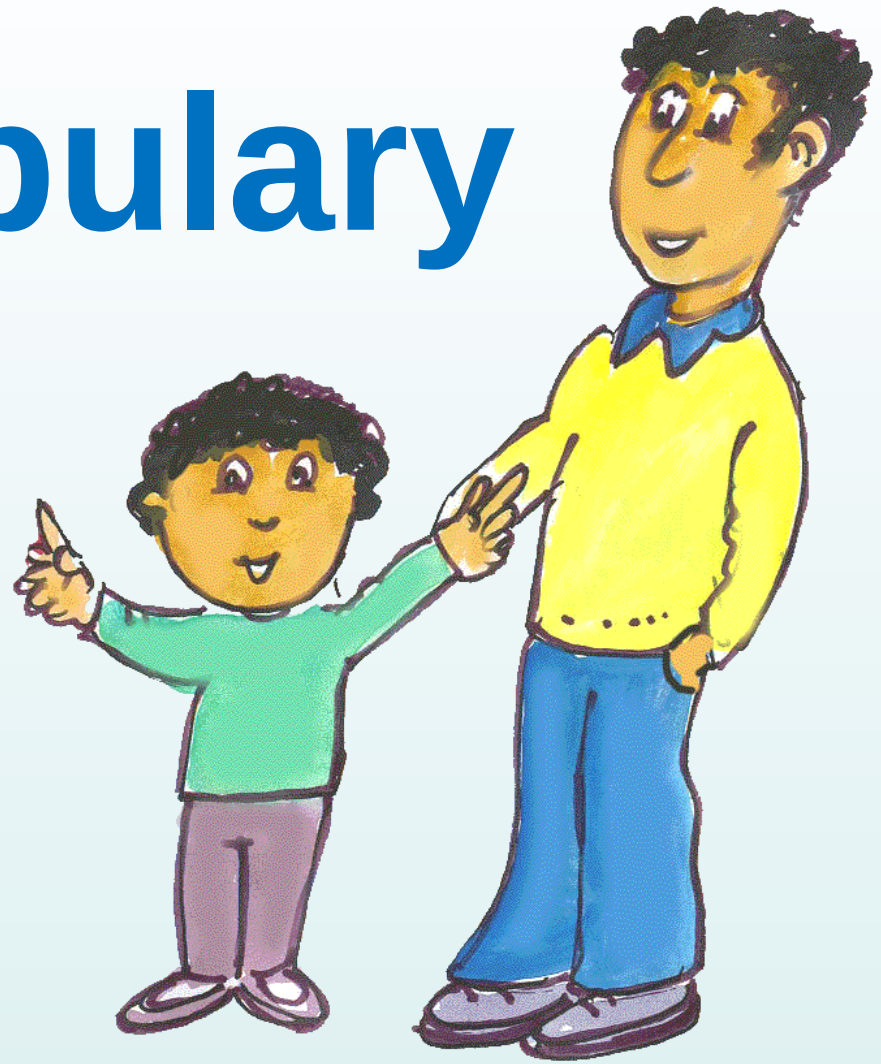


Attention and Listening



- Listening = Learning!
- Having good attention and listening skills is really important for being ready to learn in school
- You can help your child develop their attention and listening skills through fun games and activities.
 - Musical bumps/statues
 - Shake and stop/ready steady go
 - Simon Says
 - Play the games/activities in the Ready Steady Talk book
 - Repeat instructions

Vocabulary



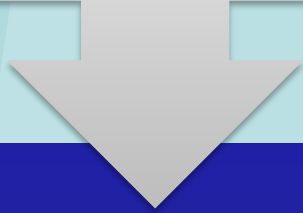
The more words children hear and learn,
the more they will achieve at school.

The early catastrophe

30 million word gap by age 3

Hart & Risley (1995)	Words heard / language experienced - per hour	Words heard / language experienced- over ONE year	Words heard / language experienced - over FOUR years
Family 1	616 Cumulative vocabulary = 500	3.2 million	13 million
Family 2	1,251 Cumulative vocabulary = 750	6.2 million	26 million
Family 3	2,153 Cumulative vocabulary = 1,100	11.2 million	45 million

Being a **good communicator** helps children **learn in school, develop** their **reading and writing** skills, **make friends**, and **enjoy life to the full!**



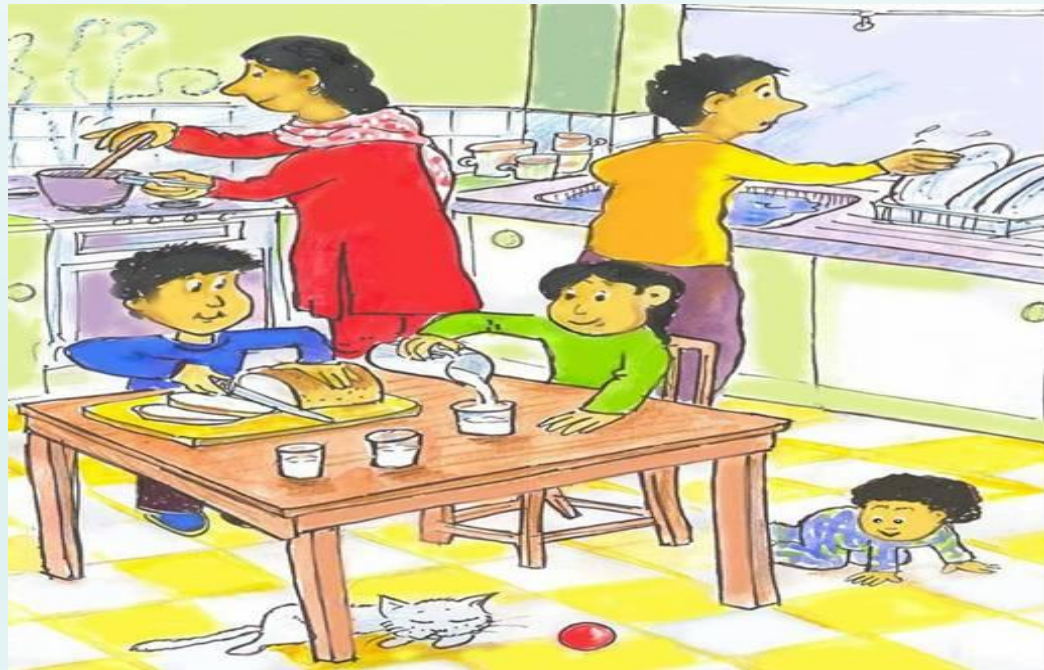
To help your child understand, learn and use more words you can

Talk to them about what you/they are doing and name the things they are seeing/doing

Link words together; letting them know that they are all part of a group, such as; body parts, animals, clothes, toys, furniture etc.

Repeat, repeat, repeat. Children have to hear words lots of times to understand what they mean and then to use them.

Through the Early Years it is vital we take time to teach children new words. This can be done both in and out of school. The simplest way to do this is to comment on the everyday things your child is doing.



Step 1

How we learn new words



What is it?



What do we do with it?



Where do we find it?



What sort of thing is it?



Clap the beats in the word



What sound does it begin with?

Phonics

- Phonics is how schools teach children to read, write and spell words.
- To start with children are introduced to letter sounds called phonemes.
- The letter sound is 'b', the letter name is 'bee'

Phase 1 Phonics develops listening skills and lays the foundations for the phonic work which starts in Phase 2;

- Play the attention and listening games
- Play rhyming games
- Sing nursery rhymes
- Alliteration
- Oral blending & segmenting

Reading Stories

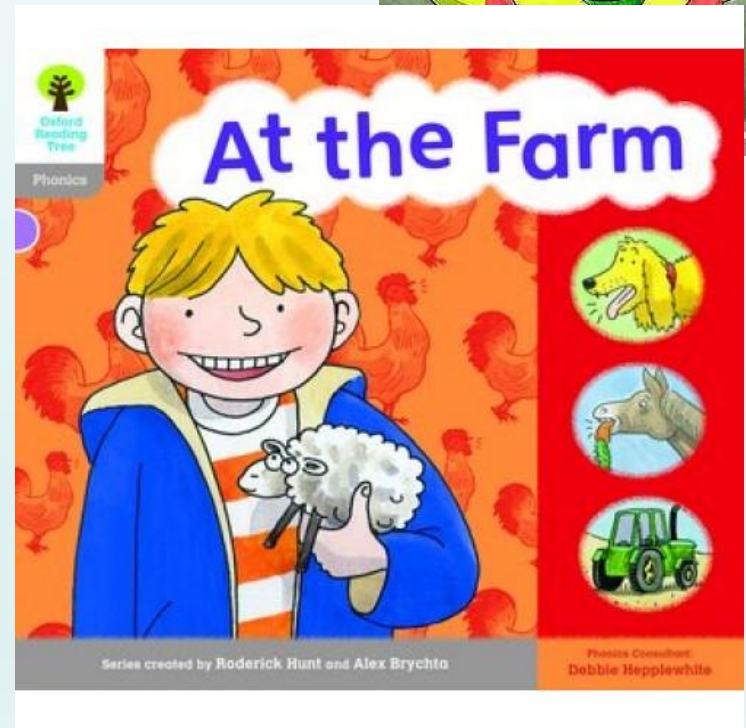
What are the benefits of sharing books?



- Sharing books is a wonderful way to develop words and communication
- Stories help your children develop their imagination and creativity.
- Stories help your children to develop their language and thinking, especially when they hear or read them in their home languages.
- 15 minutes of reading with your children each day can expose them to 1 million written words in a year.
- Being told stories and being read to at home are the things most likely to help make your children successful learners at school.
- Children who have enjoyable storytelling and reading experiences at home are more likely to be motivated to read.
- Reading aloud with children is known to be the single most important activity for building the knowledge and skills they will eventually require for learning to read.
- Books contain many words that children are unlikely to encounter frequently in spoken language.
- The single most significant factor influencing a child's early educational success is an introduction to books and being read to at home prior to beginning school.
- Being told stories boosts language and, by feeding the child's imagination, develops abstract thought.
- Children who read a lot as opposed to watching television, develop longer attention spans.
- Children are more likely to continue to be readers in homes where books and reading are valued

Wordless books

- Initially your child will bring home wordless books.
- These books are used to support the development of their language and communication skills.



Wordless books

- These are used to show your children how to look at books.
- They are used to develop your children's vocabulary, by discussing what can be seen in the book.
- They are also used to develop their comprehension skills, discussing what is happening, what has happened and what is about to happen in the book. Extend their thinking through questioning.
- They also improve communication skills as your child will be asked to share their ideas and thoughts about the book.
- By talking about the book and sharing their ideas and thoughts your children's communication skills will also be developed.

At home!

- When we send your child home with their first reading book we will also send home some resources to support you.





Narrative Footprints



- You will also receive coloured footprints.
- The footprints can be used to generate questions before, during and after the book.
- We use these footprints throughout our teaching and children should be aware of what each coloured footprint means.

Question Matrix



Lower > > > > > > > > > > > Higher

Lower

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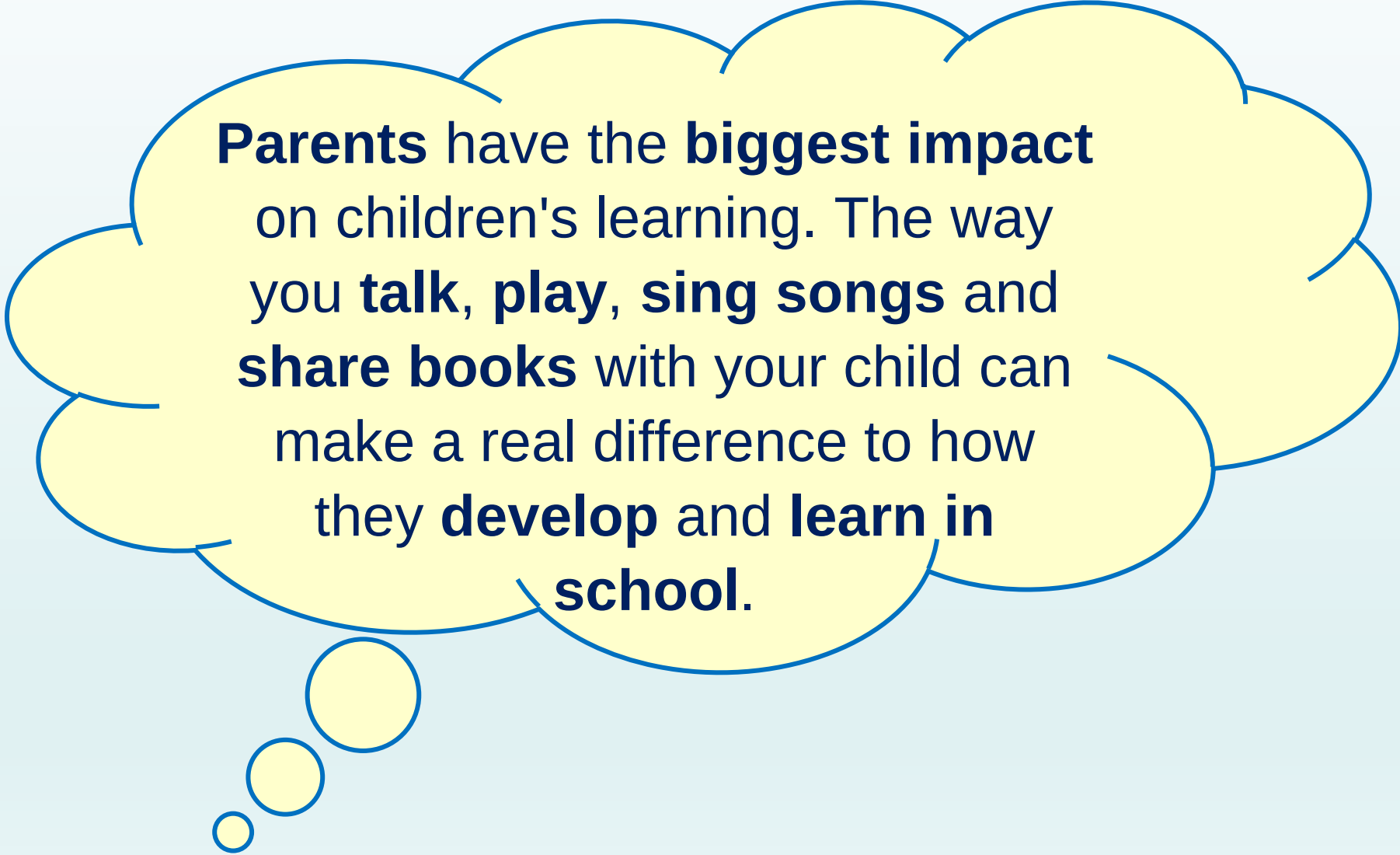
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Higher

Higher

	Is?	Did?	Can?	Would?	Will?	Might?
What?						
Where?						
When?						
Who?						
Why?						
How?						

Please remember!!



Parents have the **biggest impact** on children's learning. The way you **talk, play, sing songs** and **share books** with your child can make a real difference to how they **develop** and **learn in school**.



Communication is a skill like any other – the more it's practised, the better it gets!

<http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/parents.aspx>