

Reception

Supporting your child with literacy at home



Communication and language development

Supporting your child to become an effective communicator is one of the most valuable things that you can do to help them to progress across all areas of learning.

What might you see your child learn to do between 40 and 60 months? From 'What to Expect, When' by [Action for Children](#)

Listening and attention

When I'm singing songs or sharing a story with a grown up, I am able to listen really carefully to what is happening.

I can listen to what you want me to do and then I can do it.

Understanding

When I'm singing songs or sharing a story with a grown up, I am able to listen really carefully to what is happening.

I can listen to what you want me to do and then I can do it.

Speaking

- I can use lots of words to tell you about something that I have made or something that I have done.
- I like you to use new words to talk to me about what I am doing or what I am using. Then I like to try to use these new words as I am playing.
- I can pretend to be different people and can pretend to do different things, like being a nurse and making sick patients better with bandages and care.
- I can use words like 'first', 'next' and 'then' when I am telling you a story or telling you about something I have done.
- When I am dressing up or playing with toy people I like to make up stories using what I know, what I have seen or what I have heard to help me.

Talking to your child and listening to what they have to say is important and makes children feel valued. Children like it when their familiar adults take an interest in them and the things that they enjoy.



Top Tips for Supporting your Child's Communication and Language

- Listen to your child and take an interest in things that they enjoy
- Take time to join your child in their play
- Read to your child as often as you can
- Use new and interesting words
- Sing songs and rhymes together
- Use open ended questions like 'What do you think?' and 'What can you see?'

Useful resources for communication and language - Online

Hungry Little Minds https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/	Simple, fun activities for children from birth to 5 years.
Tiny Happy People https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people	Tiny Happy People is designed to help you develop your child's communication skills. Explore simple activities and play ideas and find out about children's amazing early development.
Communication Trust https://bit.ly/2HXJoc2	Hints, tips and activity ideas to help you support your child's communication and language development.
Mama Lisa https://www.mamalisa.com/	Books, songs and rhymes from around the world.
CBeebies Songs and Rhymes https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/curations/nursery-rhymes	A selection of songs and rhymes to sing with your child.

Activity suggestions for communication and language - Offline

Play games like Simon Says and I Spy to encourage listening skills.

Encourage independence. When you are making snacks or lunch ask your child questions like 'I need to cut the apple, what will I need?' and 'What shall I put the drinks into?' Ask your child to help and talk together as you watch what they are doing.

Following instructions. Ask your child to help with little jobs around the house. Give them short simple instructions like 'Put your shoes in the basket' and 'Put the cushions on the sofa'.

Scavenger hunt. Ask your child to find a list of things from around the house. You might name the objects - a green sock, something with a zip - or you might let your child choose by asking them to find something shiny, something smooth.

Silly rhymes. Make up silly rhymes with your child and see if your child can add a new word. Some rhyming words to start you off might be: Bat, rat, cat, mat... Frog, log, hog... Big, dig, wig...



How you can support your child with their reading





Reading to your child can help them to learn lots of new words. Try to read as often as you can with your child to help them listen, join in and understand what different letters and words look like.

Top Tips for Reading

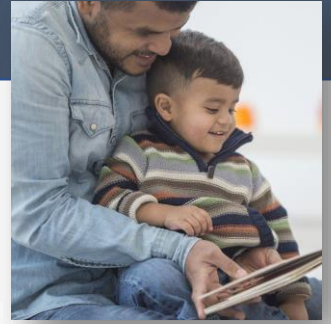
- Use your voice in different ways to make the story interesting for your child
- Point out new words and explain what they mean
- Look for rhyming words
- Ask your child questions about what they think and what might happen next
- Show your child that you are enjoying the book so that they see reading as a fun and enjoyable activity



Activity suggestions for reading - Online

	<p>Mya's Book Nook https://mayasbooknook.com/</p>	<p>Promoting language and literacy skills through diverse children's literature.</p>
	<p>Book Trust https://www.booktrust.org.uk/</p>	<p>A collection of online books that are free to use and fun to read.</p>
	<p>CBeebies Story Time https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories</p>	<p>Lots of stories to choose from for young children.</p>
	<p>Magic Keys http://www.magickeys.com/books/</p>	<p>Free online story books to read with young children.</p>

Activity suggestions for reading - Offline



Favourite books

Talk about your child's favourite books. Ask them questions about the characters, story and illustrations. Ask about why your child likes these particular books.

Make up new stories

Change stories that children know well or make up a completely new story. Your child might use teddy bears, toys or things found around the house to help them think of new ideas and to act out their story.

Make a cosy reading spot

Help your child to make a nice cosy space for reading and telling stories. This might be a den made of sheets and blankets, a comfy chair with lots of cushions or a quiet spot outside.

Make a puppet theatre

You could use a large box for the puppet theatre and make puppets using pictures from magazines or that have been drawn by your child. Lollipop sticks are great for keeping your puppet picture nice and secure. Simply cut your picture out and glue or tape it onto a lollipop stick, leaving enough stick at the bottom to hold onto. Help your child to make up new stories or retell their favourite ones.

Find letters all around

As you go about your day look for letters and words all around you. This might be on food packaging in the supermarket or on road signs you see while you are out for a walk. Talk to you child about the difference between letters.