

## Supporting Language Skills

The ability for children to use and understand language is essential - without language it is incredibly difficult to share our thoughts and feelings with others, to make friends, to give and receive information and to learn about the world in which we live.

It is crucial that during the early years of your child's life that we work together to give them the best possible start.

### What difficulties might a child experience ?

- Understanding spoken language- difficulty following instructions and making sense of what is said to them
- Spoken language- difficulty expressing their feelings or thoughts
- Unclear speech- may be difficult to understand
- Attention and listening- difficulty concentrating or listening to instructions
- Social skills- a child's self- esteem and social relationships may be affected by speech and language difficulties.

### Strategies that can help-

- Use pictures and photographs to help your child learn new words and follow routines.
- Demonstrate and show your child what you want them to do.
- Simplify your own speech and repeat new words often.
- Give your child thinking time and don't do all the talking yourself.
- Try not to ask too many questions and emphasise the important words in the sentence.
- Use your child's name to gain their attention before speaking.
- Remove distractions such as TV noise to aid concentration.

By working closely with your child's teacher and sharing valuable information about your child's communication needs, together we can make a big difference to their future.



