

## Ways to support your child starting school

# Communication and Language



### Importance of language

Communication and language skills run through all areas of the Early Years curriculum. The skills consist of paying attention, eye contact, speaking in sentences, understanding others and turn taking in conversation. It is vital that children are able to communicate effectively so that they can express their needs and experiences and form positive relationships.

### Interactions

Back-and-forth interactions from an early age form the foundations for language and cognitive development. The number and quality of the conversations they have with grown-ups and peers, throughout the day in a language-rich environment, is crucial. Below are some ways you can do this at home before starting school...

### Sharing stories

- Sharing books
- Storytelling and role play
- Puppet shows
- If your child hears a book every day until their fifth birthday, they will have heard 1825 books and millions of words to develop language.

### Singing

- Singing along to nursery rhymes, the radio or rhymes will develop your child's word bank and confidence.



### Learning new words

- When coming across new words discuss the meaning, say the word clearly and check your child understands. Can they say the word? Try using it in context or putting it into a sentence to support them.

### Playing games

- Board games can support turn taking, building relationships, paying attention, listening and understanding rules.
- Any kind of playful activity stimulates talk and will develop your child's communication skills.

