

## Communication and Language

Language development is crucial to living and learning: to communicate with others, to share and express feelings, to give and obtain information, and to understand ideas and develop thoughts. Being able to understand and use language allows children to:

- make their needs, thoughts, feelings and ideas known;
- interact socially as they play together;
- manage their own behaviour and self-regulate their emotions; and
- learn independently and collaboratively.

Children bring to Nursery their own experiences of using language. Some children may arrive clearly demonstrating an age-appropriate level of proficiency, while some may not. Communication and language is key to all relationships, interactions and learning. By providing opportunities to develop young children's communication and language skills we are equipping them with skills for the future that will support them to achieve their full potential.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, Communication and Language is broken down into three aspects:

- **Listening and attention** - these skills support language learning and include the ability to discriminate sounds and maintain and monitor attention in a shared context.
- **Understanding** - young children gradually develop the ability to understand words in context, beginning with single words and building on this with phrases and more and more complex sentences.
- **Speaking** - this allows children to express their feelings, needs and wants, their thoughts and ideas and be able to talk about what has happened and about creative or imaginative events

At Warrington Road Nursey School we focus strongly on Communication and Language. Key persons interact with children everyday – on a one to one basis, when they are in a small group (2 or 3 children) and when they spend time as part of a larger group of 13. We focus on Listening and Attention from the outset. Adults focus on understanding in different ways. They will comment on children's play giving them vocabulary and teaching them how to use language to support their thinking. Adults respond to children based on their individual proficiency in language – always extending language and asking questions as appropriate to the child. Adults' role model good speech sounds to children. We also use every opportunity to extend and develop children's vocabulary via is their fascinations, interests and stories.