

EYFS — COMMUNICATION &amp; LANGUAGE · EYFS

# Oracy & Communication in EYFS

Knowledge Organiser

## Communication and language in EYFS

1

### Listening, Attention & Understanding ELG

Listen attentively and respond with relevant questions, comments, and actions. Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify understanding. Hold conversation in back-and-forth exchanges.

2

### Speaking ELG

Participate in small group, class, and one-to-one discussions. Offer explanations using recently introduced vocabulary. Express ideas and feelings in full sentences using past, present, and future tenses with modelling and support.

3

### Why oracy matters in EYFS

Language development before school entry is the strongest predictor of reading and writing at age 11. EYFS children need rich language environments.

4

### Sustained shared thinking in talk

The most language-rich adult-child interaction involves genuine conversation — extending vocabulary, asking open questions, wondering aloud. Children's talk grows in response.

5

### Talk across the day

Language development happens throughout the day — transitions, meals, outdoor play, art, construction. Wherever an adult is present, there is language opportunity.



6

**Vocabulary explicitly taught**

Children should encounter 3-5 new vocabulary words per week in rich contexts. Not lists to copy — words encountered in stories and returned to. The 3-read approach: pleasure, language, comprehension.

7

**Supporting EAL children**

Allow home language. Provide visual support. Pair with a buddy. Model language without demanding immediate repetition. The silent period is normal — production follows comprehension.

