

Talking Together

Families **talk** now

Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates

What a Later Sentence User is learning to do

- Listen to others in 1:1 or small groups when the conversation interests them.
- Listen to and join in with stories.
- Show interest in books and things with writing on, like their name on their bag.
- Follow simple instructions, without being distracted.
- Use a range of vocabulary that reflects their experiences.
- Understand “why” questions and be more aware of abstract ideas including time in relation to past, present and future (for example “What did you do with granny yesterday?”)
- Use simple statements and questions, often with gesture.
- Use intonation and re-phrasing to make their meaning clear to others, and repeat themselves if not understood.
- Talk to connect their ideas, explain what is happening and anticipate what might happen next.
- Use spoken words to recall and relive past experiences.
- Enjoy rhythmic activities and show awareness of rhyme and alliteration.
- Turn take and share with their friends.
- Talk while enjoying playing with friends, arguing and compromising with words.

‘Developing Confident Communicators for Life’

What you can do to help

- Listen to what your child says and respond.
- Encourage your child to experiment with words and sounds, for example “I spy with my little eye...”.
- Help your child expand on what they say, give them more information and tell them more about what interests them.
- Encourage your child to predict possible endings to stories and events.
- Ask them to re-tell a story you have read them many times. Use ‘what’, ‘when’, ‘how’ and ‘why’ questions to help them expand the story.
- Help your child stay in a conversation. Ask questions that build on what they have said, and make comments that show your interest.
- Share rhymes, books and stories from different cultures.
- When introducing a new activity, use gesture and pictures to support spoken language. Showing children a photograph of an activity such as visiting a farm helps to reinforce understanding.
- Introduce new words in the context of play activities.

