Language & Literacy

Every effort is made by all staff throughout the session to encourage children to communicate and use their speech and language effectively; both with the adults and the children around them, we create opportunities to use, extend and role model speech through.

- Meeting and greeting at the beginning and end of sessions
- General discussions and conversations with the children
- Reading stories and through rhyme and songs
- Engaging in focused and non-focused activities
- Engaging in playful activities
- Our social interaction groups
- Daily routines e.g. nappy changing and hand washing
- Planned activities e.g. Tiny Talk and regular Social Interaction group working

Through these daily activities, and throughout their day at preschool, children have regular opportunities to hear and explore and use language positively. Many activities and opportunities are organised to promote and extend speech and language. All children are encouraged to express themselves, their ideas and their feelings positively.

Children are encouraged to listen and respond to the other children's ideas, thoughts and points of view, debating, questioning, agreeing and disagreeing in a constructive way.

Language whenever grammatically incorrect is not challenged but respectfully addressed, full consideration will be given to children's accents, dialect and speech impediments. Staff aim to give children the time to respond and the opportunity to hear speech correctly delivered.

It is common for young children to mispronounce words, which can make understanding them a challenge. Staff aim to work with parents to fully understand each child's uniqueness, attention is not drawn to mispronunciations; however, staff aim to reuse the words in a sentence that the child can hear and understand in its correct form, as a role model for best practice.

It may be necessary for your child to receive support from a Speech and Language therapist, if there are concerns that suitable progress is not being made through planned interventions, we can work with parents to facilitate this.

Once children have settled into preschool, we discourage the use of dummies and encourage children to leave them in their bags. As dummies prohibit speech and impede children's language skills from developing appropriately.