



Communication and Language in EYFS

Speech, language, and communication are critical areas of development for children. We know that as children develop speaking and listening skills, they're building the foundations for literacy and learning. Plus they're learning key skills such as how to express themselves, communicate their basic needs, hold conversations, and make friends. They also support many other aspects of development, including cognitive, social, and literacy development.

At Helpringham Primary Academy, communication and language is encouraged and developed in many ways.

A Language Rich Environment

Our environments are thoughtfully designed to create learning areas which develop children's language using interactive and engaging resources as well as high quality adult interactions.

We provide stimulus to excite children's interest and promote questioning. Children are encouraged to use language to talk about events and express their emotions.



Adults

Our staff work with our children to develop positive relationships and build children's confidence in using language at every possible opportunity. Staff skilfully interact and support the development of language with all children, without disrupting their natural play and curiosity about the world around them.

Books, Books, Books!

We love books! Fiction, non-fiction, magazines and so much more — books are at the heart of our learning!

We aim to inspire a lifelong love of reading from the very earliest age; one that we hope will continue to grow throughout childhood and into adulthood. In EYFS, high-quality books form the foundation of our topic work, alongside plenty of opportunities to enjoy books simply for pleasure.

Children are fully immersed in the stories we share. Together, we make predictions about what might happen, discuss the images and clues on the front cover, explore and enjoy new vocabulary, compare characters and their experiences, and much more.

Through books, children are encouraged to explore, imagine, question, discuss and develop a genuine love of reading.



Story Sacks

Story sacks are used throughout EYFS to bring stories to life, capture children's imaginations and create excitement around reading. Using carefully chosen props, children can identify key characters, objects and events within a story, helping them to become fully immersed in what they are reading.

As children become more familiar with the story, the props are then used to support them in retelling it independently, developing their confidence, understanding and storytelling skills.

Oracy is a key part of our curriculum, and we recognise the importance of giving children rich and meaningful opportunities to develop and use language throughout every part of the day.

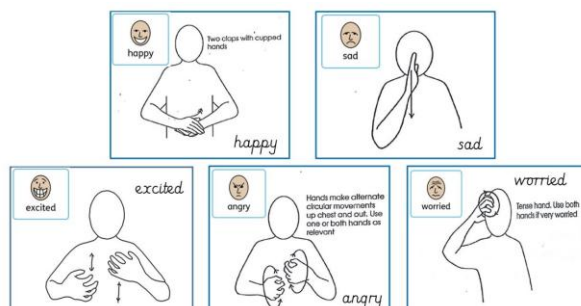


Non-verbal language

Every child is unique and communicates in their own way. At Helpringham Primary Academy, we aim to create a communication-friendly environment where every child has the support they need to express themselves, understand others and communicate with confidence.

We use a range of approaches to make communication accessible and inclusive. Adults may use Makaton signs and visual representations when sharing stories or giving instructions, while visual timetables help all children understand the routines of the day.

Some children may benefit from additional personalised support, such as First/Then cards, visual prompts or visual cues worn by adults on lanyards. Through a range of communication tools and opportunities, we aim to ensure that every child feels understood, included and able to share their thoughts, needs and ideas.



Nursery Rhymes

We love to sing nursery rhymes. Nursery rhymes play an importance role in early childhood development. They help to boost vocabulary, language development and literacy skills. Nursery rhymes are a fun way to develop numeracy skills as well as support social, emotional and physical skills.

Developing oracy and confidence

In Nursery and Reception, children are given regular opportunities to share their ideas and develop the confidence to speak in front of their peers. For some, this may begin with a simple wave or a friendly “hello”, while others may share their likes and dislikes, talk about activities from home or discuss their favourite learning from the week.

Through these opportunities, children gradually build their confidence and develop their language and oracy skills. They learn to listen attentively to others, ask questions, compare ideas and recognise when it is their turn to contribute to a conversation.



Adult led group time

Adult led sessions are an important part of learning. Communication and language based adult led sessions are carefully planned into the week to teach new vocabulary and language skills.

Snack Time

Snack time is not just a chance to snack, it is an opportunity to introduce new language and reflect on our day so far. Children learn to listen to each other, ask questions and respond appropriately using lovely manners.



Links for parents

[BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

[Words for Life](#)