

## Communication and Language

These are our 'Top Tips' to help you enjoy your child's journey of learning together...

- ★ Talk to your child - about what you are doing and plan to do and also about your child's own activities and interests. It is never too early to start - even new babies respond to friendly conversations from adults.
- ★ Talk to your child in your own language, help your child to feel proud of your language.
- ★ Follow your child's lead. Join in with what they're playing, listen carefully and give them plenty of time to speak.
- ★ Have fun with rhymes, songs and poems, encourage them to join in. Enjoy eye contact and facial expressions, body language, get down to their level, have fun!
- ★ Look at books and pictures together, pointing to objects and features and giving them names., Keep distractions to a minimum, turn off the television, computer and mobile phone.
- ★ Read or tell a story at least once every day. If your child demands the same story many times, go along with it, but have something different ready for when he/she wants it. Add a new dimension to a story by adding a puppet, talking in different voices, adding props...
- ★ Increase their vocabulary by adding one or two extra words to what they say i.e. 'car' - 'a red car'.... 'gog' - 'yes it is a dog', repeat mispronounced words, rather than telling your child they have said words wrongly.
- ★ Your child is only young once! Build dens together, bake together, role play scenarios from stories or real life! Provide a commentary about what you are doing together. It only needs to take half an hour!

Above all, remember that your child wants to be grown up like you. Children are more likely to develop communication skills if they see the adults around them reading, writing and talking to one another. We are their role models.

The Early Years Foundation Stage recognises 7 different areas of learning. Communication and Language is one of the 3 Prime Areas.

**Communication and language development** involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Communication is a vital element in your children's development. Your role as your child's primary carer is the most important one in providing them with a model for spoken language and with vocabulary.

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More information about the Early Years Foundation Stage is available from the foundation years website: [www.foundationyears.org.uk](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk).

Other useful websites:  
[www.ican.org.uk](http://www.ican.org.uk)  
[www.talktoyourbaby.org.uk](http://www.talktoyourbaby.org.uk)

[www.wordsforlife.org.uk](http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk)  
[www.talkingpoint.org.uk](http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk)

Yellow Dot is a small Group of Children's Nurseries based in Hampshire. Its hard working team have achieved amazing results with all the settings acknowledged by Ofsted to have Outstanding qualities! Thank you for choosing Yellow Dot to care for your child.

