



Policy Statement for Communication and Language Development

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

This policy is in accordance with the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

Article 28 Every child has the right to an education.

Article 29 Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to their full.

Language and Communication is a Prime area of learning within the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. It is through language and communication that a child makes sense of the world and is therefore central to a child's learning and development.

Children learn to use language effectively by communicating with others, through speaking, listening and developing their understanding

All children develop at a different rate - the staff are aware of each child's needs and provide activities appropriate to the individual child's level.

At Selly Oak Nursery School, we aim to ensure that all our pupils are given every opportunity to reach their full potential, regardless of language, race or culture.

Speaking and listening skills will support the children in forming relationships with their peers and adults. It helps in the expression of thoughts and feelings and sharing these with others. Taking turns in speaking and listening is a necessary social skill which takes time to develop.

Circle Time sessions will support the children in developing their communication skills and developing their understanding of what is being discussed.

Where English is an additional language support will be given by staff to enable the child to participate fully in the curriculum.

Makaton signing is used to support very early language development. Key signs are allocated on a regular basis which are shared with parents via the newsletter. Cards are displayed on the information board for parents to learn the signs to accompany each word.

Staff make regular observations of children and these are recorded and used for monitoring progress and informing future planning. Small weekly focus groups support those children with speaking and listening issues along with developing the English skills of EAL children.

The schemes ECAT (Every Child's A Talker) and ELKLAN are run within the Nursery. Staff are trained in both schemes and information is fed back to parents on a regular basis.

Children who would benefit from taking part in these schemes are clearly identified by their Key Workers during the year.

Communication and Language Development is split into three areas:

- Listening and attention
- Understanding

- Speaking

We aim to develop these skills by:-

- Developing confidence in both speaking and listening by providing a setting where there are activities which stimulate language
- Giving opportunities for children to speak freely during circle time, story, planning and work time where adults can encourage discussion, questioning, listening skills and problem solving
- Using puppets, story sacks and prop boxes to engender a greater interest and children's participation in discussion.
- Developing the children's understanding of Language by supporting them in listening and responding to what has been said clearly and accurately

Opportunities available for the development of speaking and listening

- Opportunities for speaking with adults
- Circle time
- Role play
- Registration time
- Child initiated and adult focus times
- Conveying messages
- Story time
- Tape recorders - recording voices
- Puppets
- School visits
- Telephones
- Artefacts
- Computer
- Interest tables
- Displays
- Book corner - story tapes
- Snack time
- Lunch time
- Plan, do, review time
- Learning Makaton Signs

Notes:

Every Child a Talker (ECAT) is designed to help practitioners and parents create a developmentally appropriate, supportive and stimulating environment in which children can enjoy experimenting with and learning language.

Further information can be found at:

www.wigan.gov.uk/Services/EducationLearning/EarlyYears/Childcare/EveryChildATalker%28ECAT%29.htm

ELKLAN:

Elklan was established in 1999 by two experienced speech and language therapists Liz Elks and Henrietta McLachlan in response to a demand for training to be delivered by speech and language therapists to education staff to enable them to be more effective in their support of children with speech, language and communication need (SLCN).

Further information can be found at:

www.elklan.co.uk/

Agreed by Selly Oak Nursery School Governors Curriculum Sub - Committee on

Signed

Review date