

Communication and Language at York Road Nursery School.

Communication and language is an essential part of every child's life, whether it's spoken or through action. At York Road Nursery School we ensure every child is able to reach their full potential through a range of inspiring experiences.

First steps:

Communication and language is a vital skill for children, to engage and interact with their peers and adults. There are three main aspects to communication and language, which are; listening and attention, understanding, and speaking. Children can learn and develop these essential skills through role play with adults and their friends. Talking and listening to adults, to build not only on their vocabulary but also the social cues and promote critical interaction skills. Children can develop these skills through a language rich environment, listening and paying attention to other adults interact with each other or hearing a range of new and varied vocabulary. Playing with other children to gain an understanding of how to interact with children their own age, as well as how to communicate with adults.

Inclusion

Every child at York Road is unique. As a result of this we get to know the child as an individual, learning their interests and their individual needs. From the moment a child starts at York Road we will ensure that they are learning through play and the use of experiences on offer within the nursery. We understand that this may mean adapting experiences depending on children's interests and needs which is highlighted in our highly trained and experienced staff to enable children with Special Educational Needs to succeed and progress.

Listening and attention

Listening and attention all begins at an early age. One of the earliest ways of promoting this is through singing and listening to stories. Every member of staff have their own favourite stories and nursery rhymes, which they will pass onto the children through their passion, in turn allowing the children to develop core listening and attention skills through joining in with singing or through listening carefully to a story being told in an enriching environment.

At York Road children partake in forest school, helping to stimulate the children's learning in a new and exciting experience. The children have to listen to instructions carefully throughout their time away from the nursery, become disciplined to walk together on the walking bus and listen to the ground rules of forest school. This in turn helps to improve and enhance their own listening skills, whilst also providing the children the opportunity to learn to communicate with other children and adults within a new environment.

Understanding.

At York Road we provide a number of different experiences to support children with their understanding. One of the most effective ways of supporting children is through engaging within their play. Asking a variety of different questions to support the children to actively and positively engage. Whilst engaging within the children's play, gently speaking to the children can help them to reflect on their play, which in turn allows children to begin to respond giving further information, more in depth answers and more of an explanation, highlighting their understanding to the adult. They can also provide previous experiences of why they are playing in the way in which they are, to allow their friends social cues to engage and freely share their own experiences. Enabling a more child initiative approach to take effect.

Speaking.

There are numerous experiences on offer to allow children to develop their speaking skills. One of the favourites with the children, regardless of their different interests is that of 'show and tell'. The children and their families have the opportunity to share photos and information of the weekend or any special event with the class. This allows the children to be able to re-tell and talk about their own personal experiences, which also helps the other children to develop their listening and attention skills by patiently waiting for their own turn at sharing news.

Children's voices and views are a vital part of York Road and by allowing these children to freely speak and share their interests and ideas, it allows all the staff to ensure we are providing the most inspiring and enriching experiences and opportunities for the children to access. In turn, allowing all the children at York Road to be focussed and stimulated throughout their time with us.

Louise Dunkley and Sarah Metson, Communication and language leaders
Part of the York Road Team.