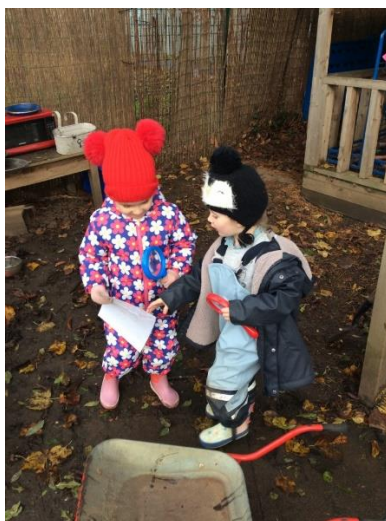


## Communication and Language at York Road Nursery School and Pre-School

### Intention

Communication and language is an essential part of every child's life, whether it is verbal or non-verbal. At York Road Nursery School and Pre-School our intention is to ensure that every child is able to reach their full potential through a range of inspiring experiences.



### Implementation

#### 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 a variety of activities such as: role play, talking, building vocabulary, developing an understanding of social cues and critical interaction skills with both adults and their peers.

Children can also develop communication and language skills through being immersed in a language rich environment both visually and auditory and paying attention to other peer and adult to adult interactions. At York Road we value and understand the importance of hearing a range of new varied vocabulary and languages with their peers and 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. Our 5 before 5 curriculum has been developed with careful consideration of inclusion in mind. In particular the 5 Before 5- Send a greeting to a friend may be adapted to be a simple wave of the hand, a Makaton greeting or message, a smile to something as complex as writing a email or making a card with a message to communicate the greeting.



### 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 has 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. In addition to these favourite we have selected a list of Core Books and Rhymes that we teach the children through out the year. More information about these books and rhymes can be found in the Literacy-Reading and writing document. At York Road children partake in forest school, helping to stimulate the children's learning in a new and exciting experience and providing children with plenty of opportunities for mindful listening in nature, communication with peers and adults through team building exercises and experiences. The children have to listen to instructions carefully throughout their time away from the nursery, become disciplined to walk together on the walking bus, crossing roads 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. Families are encouraged to share photos and information of the weekend or any special event with the class which allow the child to have an opportunity to share these experiences and photos with their friends and adults at school. Children are also encouraged to bring in objects such as an old

baby grow from when they were little when we are talking about how living things grow. 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. At York Road the planning is then lead by these discussions to extend their learning. For example, a child might talk to an adult or be overheard talking to a friend about volcanoes. The key worker will then try to extend this learning by introducing a good about volcanos or making a volcano and then extending it into a science experiment. In turn, allowing all the children at York Road to be focussed and stimulated throughout their time with us and moving their learning forward and developing the children's vocabulary, speaking skills and experiences.



### **Impact**

At York Road we believe that the impact of having such a inclusive and robust Communication and Language curriculum will help develop the children who attend York Road Nursery and Pre-School into confident able communicators not only at home and school but in our wider community and help them progress in their abilities no matter their starting points or home languages.

Melissa Jeeves

Communication and Language Coordinator