

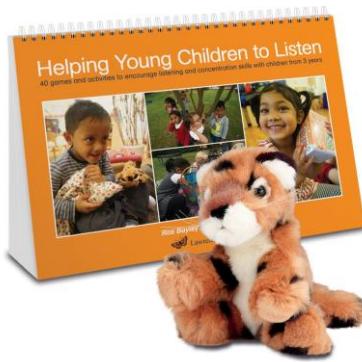


## Communication & Language Newsletter, May 2020

Communication & Language is one of the seven areas of the early year's foundation stage used to assess children's ability to speak, pay attention, listen and understand. Children do this in range of ways including, listening to stories, responding appropriately to what people say, by articulating and expressing their feelings and developing their own narratives and connecting ideas or events.

At Vicarage Lodge we use fun games and activities to encourage listening and attention. We feel it is very important to not have the children sat for long periods of time completing worksheets and colouring in books, instead we concentrate on short focused activities, which are all play based; this way we have found the children are more engaged and excited to learn.

During our short story times, we have games and fun ways to engage our children. Lola the leopard is a much loved teddy in preschool and we use Lola as a prop during story time. The activities in the book, features Lola as the central character to help engage children in the games. We encourage the children to take part in looking and listening for short periods, when they do this, they get to hold Lola and pass her around the circle. This is a great way to ensure all the children are calm, listening and focused for the short story.



### Listening walks

We also take part in listening walks in our garden. On a listening walk, your child tries to focus on the sounds they hear around them. When your child really listens to background sounds, they will realise how much they can notice when they pay attention.

Listening walks are also a great way for you and your child to hear what is happening right now and moment by moment. This is called mindfulness, which can give your child the skills to deal with stress during study.

**Jolly Phonics:** We also teach the children fun ways to learn letter sounds, we do this by teaching the children Jolly phonics; this program can be used by teaching the children different phase's.

We begin by teaching phase one, we teach the children songs and actions to help the children to sound out and remember each sound and action in a fun interactive way.

<https://www.jollylearning.co.uk>

**Inspiring Curiosity:** We continue to strive to inspire curiosity, through being curious the children are encouraged to be:

- Independent thinkers
- Stronger non-verbal communicators
- Problem-solvers
- Lifelong learners
- Risk-takers
- Respecters of resources and the natural world
- Creative and critical thinkers
- Imaginative

**What's in the Box?** During our activities we play "What's in the Box?" This helps the children's language and communication, as they get to guess, talk and describe what item they have found in the box.

**Curiosity Cases:** The staff team are constantly on the lookout for unusual objects for the curiosity cases, the children love these, as it helps them to be independent thinkers.

When we look in the curiosity case, we ask a range of questions such as-

- What do you think this could be?
- I wonder what this could be used for?

These are all open-ended questions, to enable the children to think and guess as a group and talk about what the item could be.



# Reading with your Child

Out of all the activities mentioned above, reading to your child regularly, is the most important things you can do. It can help your child to get to know sounds, words, language and develop early literacy skills. Reading helps the children to learn to value, enjoy books and stories, which sparks your child's imagination and stimulates curiosity.

Reading is fun, it teaches the children about the world around them. Through reading a variety of books, children learn about places, people and events outside their experiences. Reading also helps to develop empathy; at Vicarage Lodge, when we read stories to the children, we ask them how they may feel if they were the character in the story, or if they were in that situation. Most of all, children will love the one to one time you give them whilst enjoying a story together.



Thanks for reading

Take Care

Andrea

Every Child a Talker Lead