

Communication and Language



- Children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development
- Interactions from an early age form the foundations for language and cognitive development
- Number and quality of the conversations they have with adults and peers throughout the day in a language-rich environment is crucial

Communication and Language



How do we create a language-rich environment?

- Reading often to children, and engaging them actively in stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems, and then providing them with extensive opportunities to use and embed new words in a range of contexts
- Through conversation, story-telling and role play, where children share their ideas with support and modelling from their adult, and sensitive questioning that invites them to elaborate concepts, children become comfortable using a rich range of vocabulary and language structures.



Open ended questions - So the child has to think of something other than a yes, no answer. Such as: How? Why? What do you think?

ALWAYS allow your child time to respond (at least ten seconds)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Extension - Show your child you are listening by adding to what they have said.

Child: "I see cat."

Adult: "I can see a red cat. It's sitting next to the tree."

Reflection - Repeat back to your child,

Child: "I goed to the park."

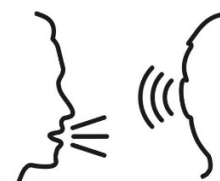
Adult: "Yes, you went to the park."

All these verbal and non verbal clues help your child gain confidence by sending a message that you are participating and valuing what your child says and thinks.

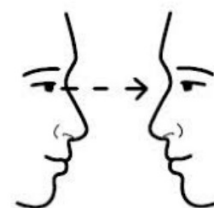
50% child 50% adult



Being responsive- The whole point is to let the child know "I notice you- I'm listening to you"

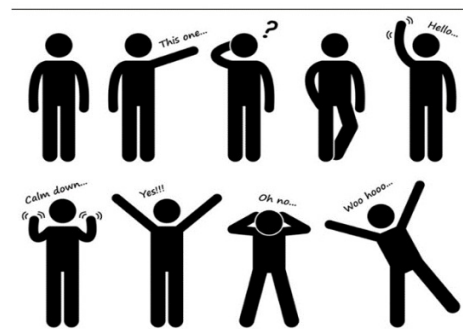


Eye Contact- Stop what you are doing and look at your child while you talk to them.



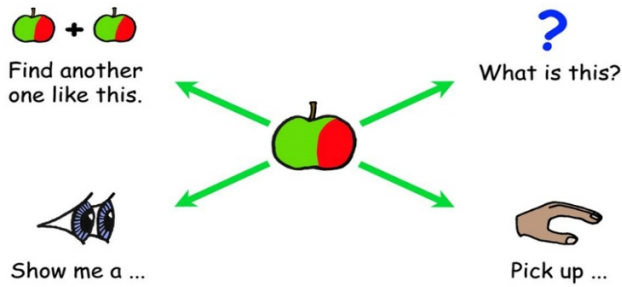
Face to face- Get down to your child's level, it can be very intimidating for a child to look up at an adult and not to be able to read body language.

Body language- Research shows that 93% of what we understand comes from tone of voice, facial expressions and body language, only 7% of what is understood comes from actual words we are speaking in a conversation.

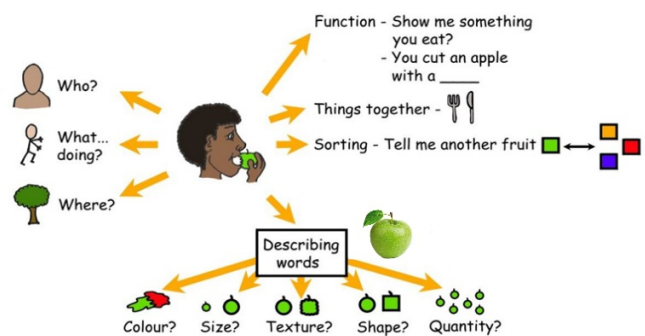


The Blank Levels of questioning

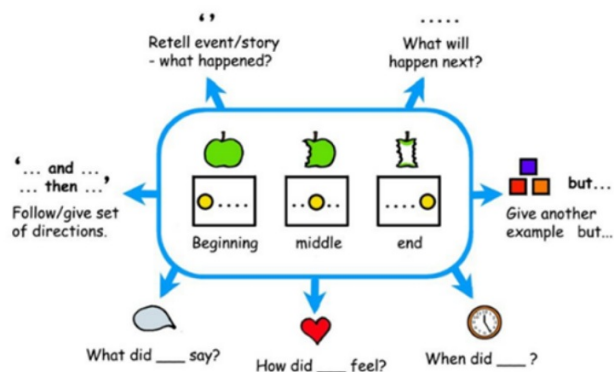
Level 1 - Naming



Blank Level 2 - Describing



Blank Level 3 - Re-telling



Blank Level 4 - Justifying

