

## English in the Foundation Stage

### COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

<i>Age Range</i>	<i>Listening and Attention</i>	<i>Understanding</i>	<i>Speaking</i>
<b>30 – 50 Months</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listens to others one to one or in small groups, when conversation interests them.</li> <li>Listens to stories with increasing attention and recall.</li> <li>Joins in with repeated refrains and anticipates key events and phrases in rhymes and stories.</li> <li>Focusing attention – still listen or do, but can shift own attention.</li> <li>Is able to follow directions (if not intently focused on own choice of activity).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understands use of objects (e.g. <i>“What do we use to cut things?”</i>)</li> <li>Shows understanding of prepositions such as ‘under’, ‘on top’, ‘behind’ by carrying out an action or selecting correct picture.</li> <li>Responds to simple instructions, e.g. to get or put away an object.</li> <li>Beginning to understand ‘why’ and ‘how’ questions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beginning to use more complex sentences to link thoughts (e.g. <i>using and, because</i>).</li> <li>Can retell a simple past event in correct order (e.g. <i>went down slide, hurt finger</i>).</li> <li>Uses talk to connect ideas, explain what is happening and anticipate what might happen next, recall and relive past experiences.</li> <li>Questions why things happen and gives explanations. Asks e.g. <i>who, what, when, how</i>.</li> <li>Uses a range of tenses (e.g. <i>play, playing, will play, played</i>).</li> <li>Uses intonation, rhythm and phrasing to make the meaning clear to others.</li> <li>Uses vocabulary focused on objects and people that are of particular importance to them.</li> <li>Builds up vocabulary that reflects the breadth of their experiences.</li> <li>Uses talk in pretending that objects stand for something else in play, e.g. <i>‘This box is my castle.’</i></li> </ul>
<b>40 – 60+ Months</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintains attention, concentrates and sits quietly during appropriate activity.</li> <li>Two-channelled attention – can listen and do for short span.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responds to instructions involving a two-part sequence. Understands humour, e.g. nonsense rhymes, jokes.</li> <li>Able to follow a story without pictures or props.</li> <li>Listens and responds to ideas expressed by others in conversation or discussion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extends vocabulary, especially by grouping and naming, exploring the meaning and sounds of new words.</li> <li>Uses language to imagine and recreate roles and experiences in play situations.</li> <li>Links statements and sticks to a main theme or intention.</li> <li>Uses talk to organise, sequence and clarify thinking, ideas, feelings and events.</li> <li>Introduces a storyline or narrative into their play.</li> </ul>

## LITERACY

<i>Age Range</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Writing</i>
<b>30 – 50 Months</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enjoys rhyming and rhythmic activities.</li> <li>• Shows awareness of rhyme and alliteration.</li> <li>• Recognises rhythm in spoken words.</li> <li>• Listens to and joins in with stories and poems, one-to-one and also in small groups.</li> <li>• Joins in with repeated refrains and anticipates key events and phrases in rhymes and stories.</li> <li>• Beginning to be aware of the way stories are structured.</li> <li>• Suggests how the story might end.</li> <li>• Listens to stories with increasing attention and recall.</li> <li>• Describes main story settings, events and principal characters.</li> <li>• Shows interest in illustrations and print in books and print in the environment.</li> <li>• Recognises familiar words and signs such as own name and advertising logos.</li> <li>• Looks at books independently.</li> <li>• Handles books carefully.</li> <li>• Knows information can be relayed in the form of print.</li> <li>• Holds books the correct way up and turns pages.</li> <li>• Knows that print carries meaning and, in English, is read from left to right and top to bottom.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sometimes gives meaning to marks as they draw and paint.</li> <li>• Ascribes meanings to marks that they see in different places.</li> </ul>
<b>40 – 60+ Months</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continues a rhyming string.</li> <li>• Hears and says the initial sound in words.</li> <li>• Can segment the sounds in simple words and blend them together and knows which letters represent some of them.</li> <li>• Links sounds to letters, naming and sounding the letters of the alphabet.</li> <li>• Begins to read words and simple sentences.</li> <li>• Uses vocabulary and forms of speech that are increasingly influenced by their experiences of books.</li> <li>• Enjoys an increasing range of books.</li> <li>• Knows that information can be retrieved from books and computers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gives meaning to marks they make as they draw, write and paint.</li> <li>• Begins to break the flow of speech into words.</li> <li>• Continues a rhyming string.</li> <li>• Hears and says the initial sound in words.</li> <li>• Can segment the sounds in simple words and blend them together.</li> <li>• Links sounds to letters, naming and sounding the letters of the alphabet.</li> <li>• Uses some clearly identifiable letters to communicate meaning, representing some sounds correctly and in sequence.</li> <li>• Writes own name and other things such as labels and captions.</li> <li>• Attempts to write short sentences in meaningful contexts.</li> </ul>