



Communication

Essential Characteristics

Breadth of Study

Threshold Concepts

Milestones

Milestone 1

Listen carefully and understand

This concept involves understanding how to engage with what others are saying.

- Sift information and focus on the important points.
- Seek clarification when a message is not clear.
- Understand instructions with more than one point.

Develop a wide and interesting vocabulary

This concept involves building a rich, sophisticated vocabulary with which to express oneself.

- Use subject specific vocabulary to explain and describe.
- Suggest words or phrases appropriate to the topic being discussed.
- Identify homophones.

Speak with clarity

This concept involves understanding that an audience needs to understand what is being said.

- Speak in a way that is clear and easy to understand.
- Demonstrate good phonic knowledge by clearly pronouncing the sounds within words.
- Identify syllables within words.

Milestone 2

- Engage in discussions, making relevant points.
- Ask for specific additional information to clarify.
- Understand the meaning of some phrases beyond the literal interpretation.

- Use time, size and other measurements to quantify.
- Use interesting adjectives, adverbial phrases and extended noun phrases in discussion.
- Use vocabulary that is appropriate to the topic being discussed or the audience that is listening.

- Use verbs with irregular endings.
- Use a mixture of sentence lengths to add interest to discussions and explanations.
- Use intonation to emphasise grammar and punctuation when reading aloud.

Milestone 3

- Understand how to answer questions that require more than a yes/no or single sentence response.
- Recognise and explain some idioms.
- Understand irony (when it is obvious).

- Use adventurous and sophisticated vocabulary.
- Explain the meaning of words, offering alternatives.
- Use a wide range of phrases that include determiners, modifiers and other techniques to add extra interest and clarity.

- Vary the length and structure of sentences.
- Ask questions and make suggestions to take an active part in discussions.
- Comment on the grammatical structure of a range of spoken and written accounts.

Tell stories with structure

This concept involves understanding how to keep an audience engaged through structured speech.

- Ensure stories have a setting, plot and a sequence of events.
- Recount experiences with interesting detail.
- Predict events in a story.
- Give just enough detail to keep the audience engaged.

- Bring stories to life with expression and intonation.
- Read the audience to know when to add detail and when to leave it out.

- Narrate detailed and exciting stories.
- Use the conventions and structure appropriate to the type of story being told.
- Interweave action, character descriptions, settings and dialogue.

Hold conversations and debates

This concept involves understanding how to engage with others.

- Take turns to talk, listening carefully to the contributions of others.
- Vary language between formal and informal according to the situation.
- Add humour to a discussion or debate where appropriate.

- Make relevant comments or ask questions in a discussion or a debate.
- Seek clarification by actively seeking to understand others' points of view.
- Respectfully challenge opinions or points, offering an alternative.

- Negotiate and compromise by offering alternatives.
- Debate, using relevant details to support points.
- Offer alternative explanations when others don't understand.



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