

Talking for Success: Building Strong Speakers and Learners

At Forest View Primary School, we know how important it is for your child to be able to **talk confidently and clearly**—we call this **Oracy**.

Oracy is about more than just speaking; it's about giving every child the **skills to think, learn, and achieve their very best**.

What is Oracy, and Why is it Important?

Think of Oracy as giving your child a powerful voice and the skills to use it well. It helps them:

- **Be Great Learners:** When children can talk about what they are learning, it helps them understand and remember it better.
- **Think Deeper:** Oracy teaches them to listen carefully to others (**active listening**) and think about different ideas (**critical thinking**).
- **Share Their Voice:** We make sure every child feels comfortable sharing their ideas and knowing their opinion is **valued**.

How Will Your Child Benefit?

Our goal is for every child leaving Forest View to be a confident communicator who is:

- **Clear and Confident:** Able to talk about their learning in all subjects.
- **A Critical Thinker:** Capable of making connections between different topics (e.g., how math is used in science).
- **Ready for Anything:** Able to use their knowledge and language skills in all parts of their life and future schooling.

What We Do in the Classroom

We don't just hope children become good communicators; we **teach** them how!

- **Planned Lessons:** Our teachers follow a clear **Oracy Curriculum** to make sure these skills are taught on purpose, not just by accident.
- **Speaking in Full Sentences:** We encourage children to speak in **complete sentences**. This helps them organize their thoughts and express complex ideas clearly.
- **Helpful 'Sentence Starters':** We use helpful phrases (like "I agree with that because..." or "My evidence is...") called **sentence stems** to give children a scaffold for talking like an expert and using academic language.

These speaking skills are embedded across all lessons, supporting our school values of **resilience, ambition, and respect**.

Supporting Oracy: What You Can Do at Home

The best place for your child to practise their talking skills is with you!

Here are some simple, fun ways to build their confidence and language skills every day:

- **Be a Great Listener:** When your child is talking, give them your **full attention**. Put down your phone or turn off the TV. This shows them that what they say is important.
- **Ask Open Questions:** Instead of questions they can answer with a single word (like "Did you have a good day?"), try questions that encourage a longer explanation:
 - "What was the **most interesting** thing you learned today, and why?"
 - "If you could change one thing about your game, what would it be?"
 - "Tell me the **steps** of how you built that (drawing/tower/LEGO model)."
- **Encourage 'Why?':** When your child gives an opinion, gently ask them to explain their thinking. For example: "That's a great idea! **Why** do you think that's the best way?"
- **Use New Words:** Don't be afraid to use **rich vocabulary** (bigger or less common words) in conversation. If you use a word they don't know (like *enormous* or *predict*), explain what it means. Hearing new words helps them use them later.
- **Tell Stories Together:** Encourage your child to retell a story they read, a movie they watched, or an event from the weekend. You can also play **story games** where you take turns adding a sentence to create a brand-new adventure!

These conversations at home are key to helping your child thrive in school and beyond.