



## **What does Communication and Language look like in Early Years at the NCEA Trust?**

At NCEA Trust children's Communication and Language skills are a high priority. Our aim is for all children to be confident communicators. We aim for them to be able to share their ideas and opinions with others, listen and use talk to solve problems and organise their thinking and so these are key skills that we focus on.

We share stories with the children on a daily basis and our curriculum has been developed around these stories developing and embedding vocabulary. Active engagement in storytelling, story making, role play as well as knowing lots of different rhymes and poems in an environment rich in language gives the children opportunities to explore new words and new worlds. We also explore non-fiction books to extend children's knowledge and understanding.

The staff support children by introducing new words, developing conversations and helping children to listen carefully. We also focus on specific skills such as following and understanding instructions, developing auditory skills and interacting with others. Adults show the children by modelling appropriate questions and sentences and describing what they are doing.

Children with Communication and Language difficulties are identified early and support is given with focussed activities, parents and outside agencies are involved.

## **Communication and Language in our 2-Year Old provision:**

In the 2 year old provision children have the opportunity to explore quality picture books in greater depth. Joining in with key phrases, acting out different parts of the story, exploring pictures, answering questions, as well as learning new vocabulary. These books are also shared with parents on our online learning journal so learning can continue at home.

Children are encouraged to share books at home through our home library and other incentives which we have to encourage the love of books. We have rhyme and song bags with picture and object prompts linked to a rhyme, which are used daily. So by the time that they leave our 2 year old provision, all children are very familiar with 10 rhymes and can join in with them.

Staff support children in their play, modelling appropriate vocabulary, commenting on what the children are doing and extending their language. They also use basic Makaton signs alongside routines to help children with their understanding.

They listen to children and give them time to answer, building up their confidence with lots of self-esteem and praise. We use non-fiction books to develop opportunities for children to find out about the wider world as well as nurturing individual children's interests and preferences.