

SPEECH & LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

As an accompaniment to the Speech & Language Development podcast, this poster provides a summary of the key considerations, insights, and strategies discussed throughout the episode.

Speech, language, and communication underpin learning, development, and our ability to connect with others. Learning a language is the most important thing a child can do, and is a skill that can always be developed or improved.

NHS Fife's Speech & Language Therapy Service operates a tiered model of service delivery with many access points. However, not every child will need direct intervention from a therapist, often, the targeted support delivered within Early Years settings by practitioners will meet the needs of children and their families.



1,000 DAYS

During the first 1000 days of a baby's life, the experiences and interactions they have are crucial for brain development and the establishment of neuro-connections that help them to develop their socio-emotional selves; laying the foundations for communication.



VOCABULARY

Size and use of vocabulary is a reliable predictor of future success. Children starting school with lower vocabularies generally don't catch-up and experience poorer outcomes throughout school and beyond.



BOOKS & READING

Books are the best source of useful words. It's important that adults demonstrate the power and possibilities available through reading. Even sharing the pictures in a book with a child will result in the modelling of rich vocabulary.



INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

In meetings, notes, and reports, it's important to be inclusive, respectful, and clear with the language we use. Be mindful that abbreviations and acronyms can be easily misinterpreted and confusing for those who are unfamiliar with them.



LANGUAGE TOWER

The 'Language Tower' provides an easy-to-understand overview of how communication develops and ways in which different language skills relate. It can help parents/carers understand where their child is having difficulties and how to support them. Click [here](#).



HIGH 5!

The 'High 5!' incorporates different evidence-based practice aspects and approaches into one. It represents the 5 key elements of successful interaction and communication: be face-to-face, give thinking time, balance comments and questions, use 'Wow Words', and support with visuals/signs/symbols. Click [here](#).



EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

Speech and language development doesn't happen by chance. The more practitioners know about how speech and language develop, the better the position they are in to help. Everyone can help to make a difference, not just Speech & Language Therapists.



WORKING TOGETHER

Speech & Language therapists understand the importance of working together with those in closest proximity to a child and their family. Therapists can support practitioners with strategies and insights, but are equally keen to expand their knowledge by learning from Early Years specialists.



INFORMATION

For links to resources, more information, and contact details for services discussed within the podcast, click [here](#).

