



## Why is language important?

Language helps children to learn and understand what is going on at home, nurseries and school. It also helps them make friends and form strong relationships.

Good language skills mean a child can chat about age-appropriate topics and use language in different ways as they get older.

It will help them to be able to empathise - to imagine and understand what other people are thinking.

These skills are particularly important when children learn to read and write. Imagine how hard it is to try to read or write a foreign language if you don't understand it.

## How can we help?

You can help your child develop their language skills by making all conversation and discussion fun and stimulating.



A hearing impaired child needs to hear a word at least 200 times before they can understand it and use it correctly, so repetition is very important.

## Challenges

There are some challenges that hearing impaired children may have when learning language.

### Challenge

### How to help

Knowing or choosing the right word.

Use pictures and objects to help introduce and establish vocabulary.

Use opportunities in everyday life to repeat and practise words eg: bedtimes, mealtimes or shopping.

Build up vocabulary by linking new words to ones they already know.

Joining words together in sentences.

Provide as much experience as possible of language alongside daily activities and routines, showing how words link to what you do.

Use experience books and photo diaries to prompt links between the words they know and the experiences they have had.

## Encouraging conversations



Conversations really help children to develop language.

**'Listening'** means to actively pay attention to what you hear.  
It is not the same as 'hearing'.

Most children pick up language from listening and overhearing words used - 'incidental learning'.

Hearing impaired children tend not to pick up new words from incidental learning.

Spending time with your child and communicating during everyday activities can provide excellent opportunities for developing language and communication skills.

These include:

getting up  
washing and dressing  
mealtimes  
household jobs eg: cooking, tidying  
shopping

gardening  
recycling  
bath time  
bedtime  
trips out

## Activities and games

These are ideas for activities and games that can help your child develop their language, reading and writing.

Remember to have fun!

### Memory and recognition - missing objects tray

This game helps develop knowledge of different objects and improve memory.



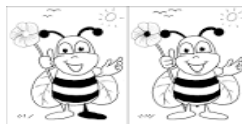
### Matching pairs

This game helps improve memory and practise names of objects.



### Spot the difference

This game can introduce or practise words.



### Make believe and imagination

This play develops language and extends imagination.



### Role play everyday experiences

Role play helps children to learn new words to use in different situations and see how people might react to what they say.

