

Communication and Language

Listening and Attention

- Listens with interest to the noises adults make when they read stories.
- Recognises and responds to many familiar sounds, e.g. Turning to a knock on the door, looking at or going to the door.
- Shows interest in play with sounds, songs and rhymes.
- Single channelled attention. Can shift to a different task if attention fully obtained – using child's name helps focus.

Understanding

- Identifies action words by pointing to the right picture, e.g., "Who's jumping?"
- Understands more complex sentences, e.g. 'Put your toys away and then we'll read a book.'
- Understands 'who', 'what', 'where' in simple questions (E.g. Who's that/can? What's that? Where is.?).
- Developing understanding of simple concepts (e.g. big/little).

Speaking

- Uses language as a powerful means of widening contacts, sharing feelings, experiences and thoughts.
- Holds a conversation, jumping from topic to topic.
- Learns new words very rapidly and is able to use them in communicating.
- Uses gestures, sometimes with limited talk, e.g. reaches toward toy, saying 'I have it'.
- Uses a variety of questions (e.g. what, where, who).
- Uses simple sentences (e.g. 'Mummy gonna work.')
- Beginning to use word endings (e.g. going, cats).

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Making Relationships

- Interested in others play and starting to join in.
- Seeks out others to share experiences.
- Shows affection and concern for people who are special to them.
- May form a special friendship with another child.

Self-Confidence & Self-Awareness

- Separates from main carer with support and encouragement from a familiar adult.
- Expresses own preferences and interest.

Managing feelings and behaviour

- Seeks comfort from familiar adults when needed.
- Can express their own feelings such as sad, happy, cross, scared, and worried.
- Responds to the feelings and wishes of others.
- Aware that some actions can harm or hurt others.
- Tries to help or give comfort when others are distressed.
- Shows understanding and cooperates with some boundaries and routines.
- Can inhibit own actions/behaviour, e.g. stop themselves from doing something they shouldn't do.
- Growing ability to distract self when upset, e.g. by engaging in a new play activity.

Physical Development

Moving and Handling

- Runs safely on whole foot.
- Squats with steadiness to rest or play with object on the ground, and rises to feet without using hands.
- Climbs confidently and is beginning to pull themselves up on nursery play climbing equipment.
- Can kick a large ball.
- Turns pages in a book, sometimes several at once.
- Shows control in holding and using jugs to pour, hammers, books and mark-making tools.
- Beginning to use three fingers (tripod grip) to hold writing tools
- Imitates drawing simple shapes such as circles and lines.
- Walks upstairs or downstairs holding onto a rail two feet to a step.
- May be beginning to show preference for dominant hand.

Health and Self-Care

- Feeds self competently with spoon.
- Drinks well without spilling.
- Clearly communicates their need for potty or toilet.
- Beginning to recognise danger and seeks support of significant adults for help.
- Helps with clothing, e.g. puts on hat, unzips zipper on jacket, takes off unbuttoned shirt.
- Beginning to be independent in self-care, but still often needs adult support.

Prime Areas



Age 22-36 Months

Mathematics

Numbers

- Selects a small number of objects from a group when asked, for example, 'please give me one', 'please give me two'.
- Recites some number names in sequence.
- Creates and experiments with symbols and marks representing ideas of number.
- Begins to make comparisons between quantities.
- Uses some language of quantities, such as 'more' and 'a lot'.
- Knows that a group of things changes in quantity when something is added or taken away.

Shape, Space and Measure

- Notices simple shapes and patterns in pictures.
- Beginning to categorise objects according to properties such as shape or size.
- Begins to use the language of size.
- Understands some talk about immediate past and future, e.g. 'before', 'later' or 'soon'.
- Anticipates specific time-based events such as mealtimes or home time.

Understanding the world

People and communities

- Has a sense of own immediate family and relations.
- In pretend play, imitates everyday actions and events from own family and cultural background, e.g. making and drinking tea.
- Beginning to have their own friends.
- Learns that they have similarities and differences that connect them to, and distinguish them from, others.

Technology

- Seeks to acquire basic skills in turning on and operating some ICT equipment.
- Operates mechanical toys, e.g. turns the knob on a wind-up toy or pulls back on a friction car.

The World

- Enjoys playing with small-world models such as a farm, a garage, or a train track.
- Notices detailed features of objects in their environment.

Specific Areas

Expressive arts and design

Exploring using media and materials

- Joins in singing favourite songs.
- Creates sounds by banging, shaking, tapping or blowing.
- Shows an interest in the way musical instruments sound.
- Experiments with blocks, colours and marks.

Being imaginative

- Beginning to use representation to communicate, e.g. drawing a line and saying 'That's me.'
- Beginning to make-believe by pretending.

Literacy

Reading

- Has some favourite stories, rhymes, songs, poems or jingles.
- Repeats words or phrases from familiar stories.
- Fills in the missing word or phrase in a known rhyme, story or game, e.g. 'Humpty Dumpty sat on a ...'.

Writing

- Distinguishes between the different marks they make.