

## Communication and Language

### Listening and Attention

- Listens to others one to one or in small groups, when conversation interests them.
- Listens to stories with increasing attention and recall.
- Joins in with repeated refrains and anticipates key events and phrases in rhymes and stories.
- Focusing attention – still listen or do, but can shift own attention.
- Is able to follow directions (if not intently focused on own choice of activity).
- Maintains attention, concentrates and sits quietly during appropriate activity.
- Two-channelled attention – can listen and do for short span.

### ELGs

Children listen attentively in a range of situations. They listen to stories, accurately anticipating key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions. They give their attention to what others say and respond appropriately, while engaged in another activity.

### Understanding

- Understands use of objects (e.g. *“What do we use to cut things?”*)
- Shows understanding of prepositions such as ‘under’, ‘on top’, ‘behind’ by carrying out an action or selecting correct picture.
- Responds to simple instructions, e.g. to get or put away an object.
- Beginning to understand ‘why’ and ‘how’ questions.
- Responds to instructions involving a two-part sequence.
- Understands humour, e.g. nonsense rhymes, jokes.
- Able to follow a story without pictures or props.
- Listens and responds to ideas expressed by others in conversation or discussion.

### ELGs

Children follow instructions involving several ideas or actions. They answer ‘how’ and ‘why’ questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events.

### Speaking

- Beginning to use more complex sentences to link thoughts (e.g. *using and, because*).
- Can retell a simple past event in correct order (e.g. *went down slide, hurt finger*).
- Uses talk to connect ideas, explain what is happening and anticipate what might happen next, recall and relive past experiences.
- Questions why things happen and gives explanations. Asks e.g. *who, what, when, how*.
- Uses a range of tenses (e.g. *play, playing, will play, played*).
- Uses intonation, rhythm and phrasing to make the meaning clear to others.
- Uses vocabulary focused on objects and people that are of particular importance to them.
- Builds up vocabulary that reflects the breadth of their experiences.
- Uses talk in pretending that objects stand for something else in play, e.g., *‘This box is my castle.’*
- Extends vocabulary, especially by grouping and naming, exploring the meaning and sounds of new words.
- Uses language to imagine and recreate roles and experiences in play situations.
- Links statements and sticks to a main theme or intention.
- Uses talk to organise, sequence and clarify thinking, ideas, feelings and events.
- Introduces a storyline or narrative into their play.

### ELGs

Children express themselves effectively, showing awareness of listeners’ needs. They use past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future. They develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas or events.

**Prime Areas**

**Age 40-60+ Months**

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

### Making Relationships

- Can play in a group, extending and elaborating play ideas, e.g. building up a role-play activity with other children.
- Initiates play, offering cues to peers to join them.
- Keeps play going by responding to what others are saying or doing.
- Demonstrates friendly behaviour, initiating conversations and forming good relationships with peers and familiar adults.
- Initiates conversations, attends to and takes account of what others say.
- Explains own knowledge and understanding, and asks appropriate questions of others.
- Takes steps to resolve conflicts with other children, e.g. finding a compromise.

### ELGs

Children play co-operatively, taking turns with others. They take account of one another’s ideas about how to organise their activity. They show sensitivity to others’ needs and feelings. They form positive relationships with adults and other children.

### Self-Confidence & Self-Awareness

- Can select and use activities and resources with help.
- Welcomes and values praise for what they have done.
- Enjoys responsibility of carrying out small tasks.
- Is more outgoing towards unfamiliar people and more confident in new social situations.
- Confident to talk to other children when playing, and will communicate freely about own home and community.
- Shows confidence in asking adults for help.
- Confident to speak to others about own needs, wants, interests and opinions.
- Can describe self in positive terms and talk about abilities.

### ELGs

Children are confident to try new activities. They can say why they like some activities more than others. They are confident to speak in a familiar group. They will talk about their ideas. They will choose the resources they need for their chosen activities. They say when they do or don’t need help.

### Managing feelings and behaviour

- Aware of own feelings, and knows that some actions and words can hurt others’ feelings.
- Begins to accept the needs of others and can take turns and share resources, sometimes with support from others.
- Can usually tolerate delay when needs are not immediately met, and understands wishes may not always be met.
- Can usually adapt behaviour to different events, social situations and changes in routine.
- Understands that own actions affect other people, for example, becomes upset or tries to comfort another child when they realise they have upset them.
- Aware of the boundaries set, and of behavioural expectations in the setting.
- Beginning to be able to negotiate and solve problems without aggression, e.g. when someone has taken their toy.

### ELGs

Children talk about how they and others show feelings. Children talk about their own and others’ behaviour and its consequences and know that some behaviour is unacceptable. They work as part of a group or class and understand and follow the rules. They adjust their behaviour to different situations. They take changes of routine in their stride.

## Physical Development

### Moving and Handling

- Moves freely and with pleasure and confidence in a range of ways, such as slithering, shuffling, rolling, crawling, walking, running, jumping, skipping, sliding and hopping.
- Mounts stairs, steps or climbing equipment using alternate feet.
- Walks downstairs, two feet to each step while carrying a small object.
- Runs skilfully and negotiates space successfully, adjusting speed or direction to avoid obstacles.
- Can stand momentarily on one foot when shown.
- Can catch a large ball.
- Draws lines and circles using gross motor movements.
- Uses one-handed tools and equipment, e.g. makes snips in paper with child scissors.
- Holds pencil between thumb and two fingers, no longer using whole-hand grasp.
- Holds pencil near point between first two fingers and thumb and uses it with good control.
- Can copy some letters, e.g. letters from their name.
- Experiments with different ways of moving.
- Jumps off an object and lands appropriately.
- Negotiates space successfully when playing racing and chasing games with other children, adjusting speed or changing direction to avoid obstacles.
- Travels with confidence and skill around, under, over and through balancing and climbing equipment.
- Shows increasing control over an object in pushing, patting, throwing, catching or kicking it.
- Uses simple tools to effect changes to materials.
- Handles tools, objects, construction and malleable materials safely and with increasing control. Shows a preference for a dominant hand.
- Begins to use anticlockwise movement and retrace vertical lines.
- Begins to form recognisable letters.
- Uses a pencil and holds it effectively to form recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed

### ELGs

Children show good control and co-ordination in large and small movements. Children move confidently in a range of ways, safely negotiating space. They handle equipment and tools effectively, including pencils for writing.

### Health and Self-Care

- Can tell adults when hungry or tired or when they want to rest or play.
- Observes the effects of activity on their bodies.
- Understands that equipment and tools have to be used safely.
- Gains more bowel and bladder control and can attend to toileting needs most of the time themselves.
- Can usually manage washing and drying hands.
- Dresses with help, e.g. puts arms into open-fronted coat or shirt when held up, pulls up own trousers, and pulls up zipper once it is fastened at the bottom.
- Eats a healthy range of foodstuffs and understands need for variety in food.
- Usually dry and clean during the day.
- Shows some understanding that good practices with regard to exercise, eating, sleeping and hygiene can contribute to good health.
- Shows understanding of the need for safety when tackling new challenges, and considers and manages some risks.
- Shows understanding of how to transport and store equipment safely.
- Practices some appropriate safety measures without direct supervision.

### ELGs

Children know the importance for good health of physical exercise, and a healthy diet and talk about ways to keep healthy and safe. They manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs successfully, including dressing and going to the toilet independently.