

Ashfield Nursery School and
All2gether@Ashfield



Part of Newcastle Nursery Schools Federation

Ashfield Nursery - Communication and Language Intent and Implementation

Communication and language are at the heart of the curriculum at Ashfield Nursery and underpins everything we do. Many of our children are learning English as an additional language and they have varied starting points when they come to us. Therefore, a great deal of emphasis is on developing vocabulary and understanding, and this is built upon throughout their nursery life enabling children to become school ready and able to communicate in a confident way.

We pride ourselves on our close relationships with families, which allows us to learn from them using key words and phrases in other languages so their children feel safe and secure within the setting, and we are able to establish trust and positive relationships with both pupils and families. This collaborative working and communication with parents supports us in embedding routines and rich real – life experiences to enable and embed learning.

An emphasis on listening skills and understanding is a focus within the 2-year-old unit through songs, rhymes and actions, and this is developed throughout nursery by the use of visual props, peer to peer support, signs, adult modelling and specialist staff who speak a range of languages. All areas of communication and language are modelled clearly and robustly throughout nursery in a language rich environment supported by story-telling, music and time to talk. The emphasis is to promote speech, language and communication opportunities whenever possible, incorporating high quality interactions with adults.

A variety of resources are used to build up and extend vocabulary from simple picture books, vocabulary bags, photographs, real objects etc in the 2-year-old unit. Children are supported to use gestures/signs to aid communication and staff keep language simple and clear to support understanding. As the children develop their language throughout nursery, staff model building sentences and adding words, giving children choices to build vocabulary whilst allowing children time to think about their responses. Focused activities and group times are used to develop children's thinking skills with open ended questions, helping them to predict, speculate and sequence events whilst developing more complex sentences