



# Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School

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# Language development is a critical part of child development.

- Language supports your child's ability to communicate, and express and understand feelings. It also supports thinking and problem-solving, and helps develop and maintain relationships.
- Language development supports their learning. It is important children use and enjoy language as it is the critical first step in literacy, and the basis for learning to read and write.



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**Speech  
Sounds**

**Expressive  
language**

**Understanding**

**Play and Interaction**

**Attention and Listening**



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# What causes speech, language and communication difficulties?

Often a number of contributing factors:

- Family history
- More evidence that shows differences in brain structure for some disorders e.g. ASC(D)
- Hearing difficulties
- More prevalence in boys



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# Environmental Factors

- Reduced play and language enriched opportunities
- Increased use of technology
- Covid has had an impact on children's language and communication development (especially the children who were 3-4 years in the first lockdown, March 2020)
- Trauma, abuse and failure to build secure attachments



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# Language Development: by 5 years

- Attention and Listening: Well established and maintained and can listen whilst doing something else.
- Play and Interaction: Imaginative and co-operative play with others, takes longer turns in a conversation and can stay on topic.
- Understanding: Understands most questions (who, where, when, what, why), concepts (e.g. above, below, hard, soft, smooth), follows 3+ part instructions, understands humour and likes jokes, understands stories without pictures
- Expressive Language: Uses long sentences with connectives (and, because, if, so), talks about things that have happened / going to happen, makes up stories, vocabulary is up to 2000 words.
- Speech: Mostly clear. Some minor errors may remain.



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# SALT role within the school

- Direct work with individuals and groups.
- Assessment of children's speech, language and communication skills.
- Target setting.
- Supporting members of staff to carry out programmes and interventions.
- Training for school staff.
- Liaising with school staff.
- Sessions in school with parents
- Working collaboratively with Speech and Language Therapists in the NHS.



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# How we support speech and language development in school

- Initial Wellcomm assessments in Pre-school and Foundation.
- Wellcomm and Talkboost groups in the early years.
- Speech and language groups ran by trained TAs in each year group supported by the essential letters and sounds programme (ELS).
- Referrals to Elouise Ashwin (attends school fortnightly) and the NHS SALT Alex Richards.
- Programmes of support delivered face to face and virtually.
- SALT interventions in school ran by the trained TAs or key workers.



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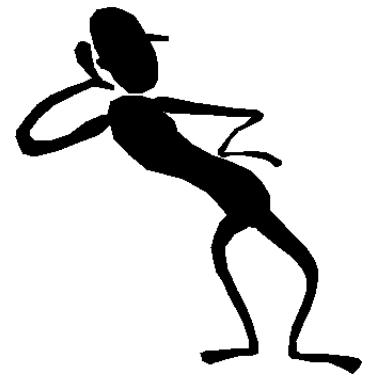
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# How to support your child at home: Help develop listening skills

- Listening is an essential skill for talking and learning. Demonstrate this by listening to your child.
- Listening games you could play include:
  - Reading riddles together and trying to work out the answer,
  - Rhyming clues (what part of your body rhymes with bed?),
  - Silly sentences (can the child spot the mistake e.g I love eating coal and chips),
  - Describe an outfit and see if your child can tell you what character you are (such as a clown or knight).



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# How to support your child at home: Teach your child about understanding

- Understanding is key to talking and learning.
- Children need to understand what single words mean and when words are joined together to make sentences, conversations and stories. This takes time and children go through phases where they ask lots of questions.
- Understanding games include:
  - Riddles
  - Odd one out (e.g apple, carrot, orange, grapes)
  - Silly sentences (e.g replace a word in a sentence with 'nonsense')
  - True or false sentences (e.g the leaves fall off the trees in spring).
  - Talk **about** the meanings of words in books (link to words they already know to make **a link**)



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# How to support your child at home: Play with language

- Play is a really important part of children's learning and development.
- Children learn lots of skills through play; how things work, how to interact and share with their peers, how to play with different toys and how to use their imaginations.
- Great ways to play together include:
  - Creating art work or an imaginary story together,
  - Play 'I am going to the shops to buy (something beginning with the letter a),
  - Create sentences together (e.g I won an amazing... In my garden I saw...)



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# How to support your child at home: Support the development of interaction

- We communicate and interact with each other in different ways; learning the skills of interaction is really important to having good conversations and developing relationships.
- We need to learn to know when to talk and when to listen, notice body language as we need words to speak but also skills in looking, listening and noticing. Children learn this from babies.
- Games to develop interaction skills include:
  - Spot the difference,
  - Taking it in turns to make list of our favourite things,
  - Naming 3 good things that happened today,
  - Charades.



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- Helping our children develop their vocabulary is important for developing speech and gives them confidence when discussing their ideas.
- Games for developing vocabulary include:
  - Finding objects around the house,
  - Creating categories and mind maps
  - playing the odd one out game.
- Reading with your child also helps to develop their vocabulary.



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# SALT needs support-useful websites

- Further reading about how to support your child with the development of speech:

<https://ican.org.uk/>

<https://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/resources/resources/resources-for-parents/>

- If you have concerns please speak to your child's class teacher or email the SEN team email address.



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