

Supporting Communication and Language

Listening and Attention

- Read stories with repeated refrains e.g. 'We're going on a Bear Hunt'. Encourage your child to join in.
- Sing nursery rhymes together regularly and encourage your child to notice the rhyme in them, predicting the word which comes next.
- Play games such as 'I spy' to draw their attention to different sounds.

Understanding

- Play games which encourage your children to learn positional language e.g. next to, below, in between. When out for a walk encourage them to describe where they are going, e.g. Over the logs, next to the swings.
- Support them to follow instructions by getting them to help in the kitchen e.g. Put two cups of milk in the bowl. Play games which involve following instructions e.g. Simon says, Twister, Follow the Leader.
- Ask them questions when they are playing and encourage them to ask you questions to develop their understanding of the world around them.

Speaking

- Read and tell stories regularly to teach them new vocabulary and phrases. Encourage them to join in telling familiar stories by putting on voices for different characters. For example, what sort of voice would the big bad wolf have in the Three Little Pigs.
- Encourage them to talk during pretend play by getting involved and asking questions.
- Music is a fantastic way to support children language development. Encourage them to sing familiar songs and make up their own versions.