

Good practice for communication: 3 - 4 years

(to be used in conjunction with the EYFS)

<p>Environment</p> <p>Opportunities for some stimulating areas/some quiet and relaxed areas.</p> <p>Identify and use opportunities for incidental learning.</p> <p>Limit distractions and reduce background noise (TV, radio etc).</p> <p>Provide a variety of opportunities to meet individual needs.</p> <p>Provide stage-appropriate toys and equipment</p> <p>Ensure child has a key person.</p>	<p>Interaction</p> <p>At this age children start to use more questions and use longer sentences. Talk about things that happened yesterday / lunch time to help develop your child's understanding of the past tense.</p> <p>Use finger plays, nursery rhymes and songs.</p> <p>Use repetition.</p> <p>Model good speech and turn taking.</p> <p>Encourage children's efforts with lots of descriptive praise.</p> <p>Singing songs with props i.e. puppets, toys, finger rhymes and body movement.</p>
<p>Listening</p> <p>Instructions to get you things, for example "Get me the book next to the window" / "Get me teddy that's in front of the house".</p> <p>Listens eagerly to stories.</p> <p>Attention is still channelled but can control own focus and shift from listening to doing.</p> <p>Talk to at the same level, using eye to eye contact to help the child concentrate on what you are saying.</p> <p>Use puppets to continue interest in stories.</p>	<p>Understanding</p> <p>Can talk about things that happened in the past as well as things that are currently happening.</p> <p>Understands instructions with 3 information carrying words.</p> <p>Can follow instructions containing 3 verbal concepts.</p> <p>More understanding of the world around them outside the family unit.</p> <p>Knows several nursery rhymes to repeat and sometimes sing.</p> <p>Counts by rote up to 10 or more, but little appreciation of quality beyond two or three.</p>
<p>Stimulating Games</p> <p>Visiting new places and learning the names of new things – looking at the world around them.</p> <p>Role model the games to the child.</p> <p>Simple cooking and making things together.</p> <p>Painting with large brushes on easel, images not clear but can be identified and named once the child has completed the picture.</p>	<p>Expression</p> <p>Average sentence length will get longer, from 4-6 words towards 5-8 words.</p> <p>Start asking questions, 'what', 'where', 'who' 'why', 'when' and 'how'.</p>