

There is a strong understanding that language is about understanding, speaking and social interactions. Areas of play across the whole environment promote every opportunity for children to talk together.



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Communication Generation

We all need a starting point to talk and something to talk about: an experience, an object, an observation an idea...



At Pennywell supporting children's speech, language and communication skills is at the centre of everything we do. A Communication Generation approach enables this to happen. What does it look like at Pennywell?

The way curriculum areas are resourced and set out can maximise the potential for interaction and language....



Interested adults who listen and respond with a deep understanding of how to use supporting strategies which enable children to develop speech, language and communication skills naturally in play are a vital element of Communication Generation.



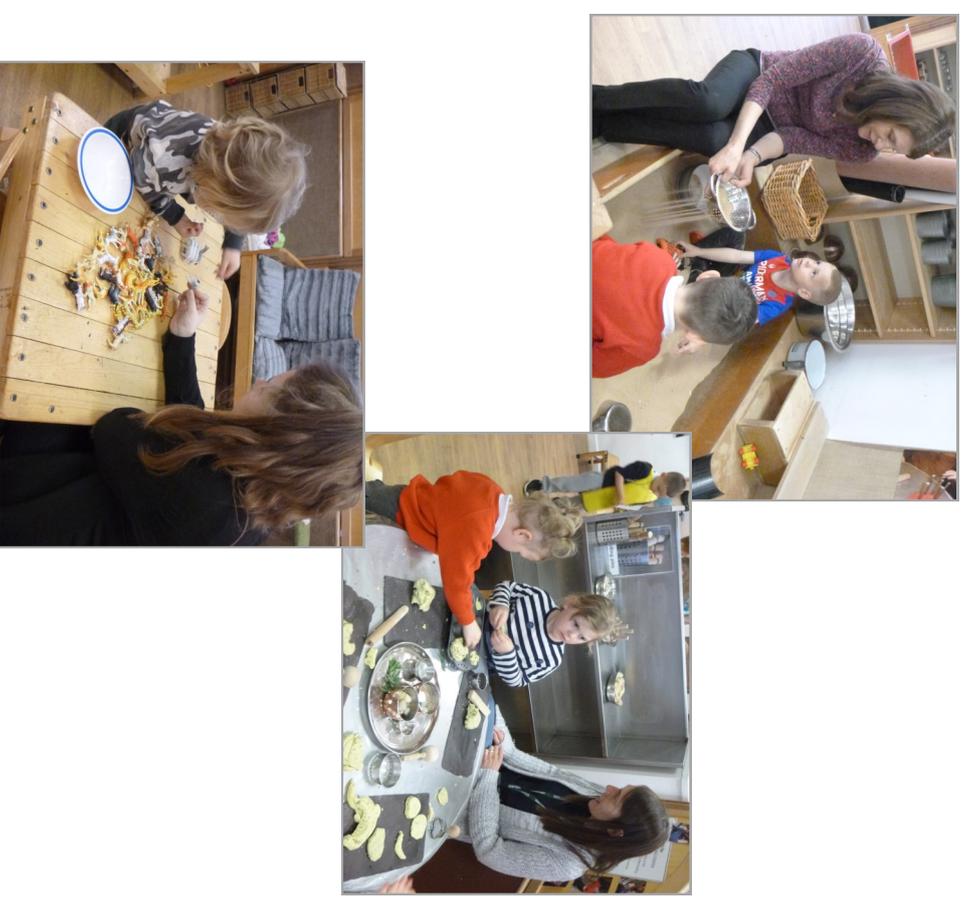
Adults use: visual prompts, repeat vocabulary (with the object or action), observe, wait and listen to the child's expressions giving them time to think, adjust the levels of language they use, make a commentary through the play and limit their use of questions. Simple strategies used consistently are highly effective in supporting SLC skills across all areas of learning.

A patch of bare grass observed when a log is moved opens up a world of natural discovery and talk.



Differences in colour, shape and texture are seen, touched and commented on. Small creatures emerge and cause great excitement enabling an emotional connection which stimulates talking and thinking. A positive response from an adult who shares in these discoveries generates stronger language and learning.

.... but more importantly the power for generating communication, through hearing and using new vocabulary and expressing thoughts and ideas can come from the simplest starting point when supported by an adult, who understands the communication potential.





The setting up of areas to generate communication is responsive to the children's interests, planned and spontaneous, inclusive and accessible. Pennywell's resources are made available for children and adults to grasp every opportunity to develop speech and language.



One child was interested in stacking the tyres and hiding inside. He was assisted by the adult to clamber in and out. He was quickly joined by others who shared in the experience. The adult took the opportunity to expand the experience by using and repeating the vocabulary of action, position, movement and direction.

The children hear the words as they make the action and repeat the words themselves.

Language in action = stronger learning

