

Spoken Language in EYFS



The EYFS framework is structured very differently to the national curriculum as it is organised across seven areas of learning rather than subject areas.

This document demonstrates which early years outcomes are prerequisite skills for speaking and listening within the national curriculum. The table below outlines the most relevant early years outcomes from 30 months to ELG, brought together from different areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage to match the programme of study for spoken language.

The most relevant early years outcomes for spoken language are taken from the following areas of learning:

- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Understanding the World

Spoken Language			
Listening Skills			
30-50 Months	Communication and Language	Listening and Attention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To listen to others one-to-one or in small groups, when a conversation interests them. • To focus attention – still listen or do, but can shift own attention. • To be able to follow directions (if not intently focused on own choice of activity).
40-60 Months	Communication and Language	Listening and Attention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain attention, concentrate and sit quietly during appropriate activity. • To have two-channelled attention – can listen and do for short span.
		Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand humour, e.g. nonsense rhymes/jokes. • To follow a story without pictures or props.
ELG	Communication and Language	Listening and Attention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To listen attentively in a range of situations. • To give their attention to what others say and respond appropriately while engaged in another activity.
Following Instructions			
30-50 Months	Communication and Language	Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To respond to simple instructions e.g. to get or put away an object.
40-60 Months	Communication and Language	Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To respond to instructions involving a two-part sequence.
ELG	Communication and Language	Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To follow instructions involving several ideas or actions.

Asking and Answering Questions			
30-50 Months	Communication and Language	Understanding	• To begin to understand 'why' and 'how' questions.
		Speaking	• To question why things happen and give explanations and ask questions e.g. who, what, when, how.
	Understanding the World	The World	• To comment and ask questions about aspects of their familiar world, such as the place where they live or the natural world.
40-60 Months	Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Making Relationships	• To ask appropriate questions of others.
ELG	Communication and Language	Speaking	• To answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events.

Drama, Performance and Confidence			
30-50 Months	Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Self Confidence and Self Awareness	• To talk confidently with other children when playing and communicate freely about own home and community.
	Communication and Language	Speaking	• To use intonation, rhythm and phrasing to make the meaning clear to others.
40-60 Months	Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Self Confidence and Self Awareness	• To confidently speak to others about own needs, wants, interests and opinions.
ELG	Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Self Confidence and Self Awareness	• To speak confidently in a familiar group and talk about their ideas.
	Communication and Language	Speaking	• To express themselves effectively, showing awareness of listeners' needs.

Vocabulary Building and Standard English			
30-50 Months	Communication and Language	Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To begin to use more complex sentences to link thoughts (e.g. using and, because). • To use a range of tenses (e.g. play, playing, will play, played). • To use vocabulary focused on objects and people that are of particular importance to them. • To build up vocabulary that reflects the breadth of their experiences.
ELG	Communication and Language	Speaking	• To use past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future.

Speaking for a Range of Purposes			
30-50 Months	Communication and Language	Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To tell a simple past event in correct order. For example, 'I went down slide'. • To use talk to connect ideas, explain what is happening and anticipate what might happen next, recall and relive past experiences. • To use talk in pretending that objects stand for something else in play. For example, 'this box is my castle'.

	Understanding the World	People and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To remember and talk about significant events in their own experience. To recognise and describe special times or events for family or friends.
		The World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To talk about why things happen and how things work.
40-60 Months	Communication and Language	Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To use language to imagine and recreate roles and experiences in play situations. To link statements and stick to a main theme or intention. To use talk to organise sequence and clarify thinking, ideas, feelings and events. To introduce a storyline or narrative into their play.
	Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Making Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To explain own knowledge and understanding.
ELG	Communication and Language	Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas and events.
Participating in Discussion			
40-60 Months	Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Making Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To initiate conversations, attend to and take account of what others say.
	Communication and Language	Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To listen and respond to ideas expressed by others in conversation or discussion.