

Language Support

Wellcomm

Did you know?

Learning to talk and communicate is one of the most important skills that we learn. It



affects almost every part of our lives. Some children need a little extra help with their language development. With early support, most go on to 'catch up' and make good progress.

Sometimes children may have a speech and language difficulty that requires the support of a Speech and Language Therapist. We can help to find out if this is something that would help your child. WellComm is just one of the tools that we

can use to help us make such a decision.

What is WellComm?

WellComm is a Toolkit for all Early Years Practitioners to help them to identify children who may need extra help with their Speech, Language and Communication Development. No children are singled out for WellComm, it is one of the tools that your child's Key Worker will use to support all the children in his/her group.

Every child is assessed for around 10 – 15 minutes on their understanding of what is being said to them (their "receptive" language) and also how they communicate verbally (their "expressive" language).

WellComm is done partly through the usual observations that your child's teacher does in class to assess his/her progress throughout the whole of the EYFS curriculum. But it will also include a few questions, such as asking your child to point to various pictures, or to play with toys by following some easy instructions.

Each child's own pace and concentration span will be taken into consideration and the overall assessment may be done in several stages if your child is busy playing and learning in the nursery classroom with something else. However, we find that most children enjoy being asked the questions in WellComm.

How will nursery let me know about my child and WellComm?

We expect to find that many children are not falling behind in their language development. If your child is not in need of any support then the Key Worker will be able to reassure you of this.

If we find that your child needs a little extra help then we will inform you which part of their language development they need support with, and how we will be doing this at nursery. More importantly, we will also be asking you to help your child alongside us by doing some easy practical activities at home which include songs, rhymes, games and other play activities. Very easy-to-read instruction sheets will be provided for each of these activities that we know you can help your child with.

Or, if you prefer, we have staff in the children's centre team that can visit you at home and bring lots of ideas and top tips that will enable you to help your child at home.