

COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE

	LISTENING AND ATTENTION	UNDERSTANDING	SPEAKING
16-26 mths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listens to and enjoys rhythmic patterns in rhymes and stories. • Enjoys rhymes and demonstrates listening by trying to join in with actions or vocalisations. • Rigid attention - may appear not to hear. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selects familiar objects by name and will go and find objects when asked, or identify objects from a group. • Understands simple sentences (e.g. 'Throw the ball'.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies familiar expressions, e.g. 'Oh dear', 'All gone'. • Beginning to put two words together (e.g. 'want ball', 'more juice'). • Uses different types of everyday words (nouns, verbs and adjectives, e.g. banana, go, sleep, hot). • Beginning to ask simple questions. • Beginning to talk about people and things that are not present.
22 - 36 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listens with interest to the noises adults make when they read stories. • Recognises and responds to many familiar sounds, e.g. turning to a knock on the door, looking at or going to the door. • Shows interest in play with sounds, songs and rhymes. • Single channelled attention. Can shift to a different task if attention fully obtained - using child's name helps focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies action words by pointing to the right picture, e.g. "Who's jumping?" • Understands more complex sentences, e.g. "Put your toys away and then we'll read a book." • Understands 'who', 'what', 'where' in simple questions (e.g. Who's that/can? What's that? Where is?) • Developing understanding of simple concepts (e.g. big/little). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses language as a powerful means of widening contacts, sharing feelings, experiences and thoughts. • Holds a conversation, jumping from topic to topic. • Learns new words very rapidly and is able to use them in communicating. • Uses gesture, sometimes with limited talk, e.g. reaches toward toy, saying 'I have it'. • Uses a variety of questions (e.g. what, where, who). • Uses simple sentences (e.g. 'Mummy gonna work.') • Beginning to use word endings (e.g. going, cats).
30 - 50 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listens to others one to one or in small groups, when conversation interests them. • Listens to stories with increasing attention and recall. • Join in with repeated refrains and anticipate key events and phrases in rhymes and stories • Focusing attention - still listen and do, but can shift own attention. • Is able to follow directions (if not intently focused on own choice of activity). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands use of objects (e.g. "what do we use to cut things?") • Shows understanding of prepositions such as 'under', 'on top', 'behind' by carrying out an action or selecting correct picture. • Responds to simple instructions, e.g. to get or put away an object. • Beginning to understand 'why' and 'how' questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning to use more complex sentences to link thoughts (e.g. using and, because). • Can retell a simple past event in correct order (e.g. went down slide, hurt finger). • Uses talk to connect ideas, explain what is happening and anticipate what might happen next, recall and relieve past experiences. • Questions why things happen and gives explanations. Asks e.g. who, what, when, how. • Uses a range of tenses (e.g. play, playing, will play, played). • Uses intonation, rhythm and phrasing to make the meaning clear to others. • Uses vocabulary focused on objects and people that are of particular importance to them. • Builds up vocabulary that reflects the breadth of their experiences. • Uses talk in pretending that objects stand for something else in play, e.g. 'This is my castle.'
40 - 60+ months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains attention, concentrates and sits quietly during appropriate activity. • Two-channelled attention - can listen and do for short span. <p>Early Learning Goal Children listen attentively in a range of situations. They listen to stories, accurately anticipating key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions. They give their attention to what others say and respond appropriately, while engaged in another activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds to instructions involving a two-part sequence. Understands humour, e.g. nonsense rhymes, jokes. • Able to follow a story without pictures or props. • Listens and responds to ideas expressed by others in conversation or discussion. <p>Early Learning Goal Children follow instructions involving several ideas or actions. They answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extends vocabulary, especially by grouping and naming, exploring the meaning and sounds of new words. • Uses language to imagine and recreate roles and experiences in play situations. • Link statements and stick to a main theme or intention • Uses talk to organise, sequence and clarify thinking, ideas, feelings and events. • Introduces a storyline or narrative into their play. <p>Early Learning Goal Children express themselves effectively, showing awareness of listeners' needs. They use past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future. They develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas or events.</p>