Peer Observation

Positive Relationships

- Use simple repetitive language during everyday activities.
- Gain children's attention before delivering instructions
- Talk at an appropriate rate using short sentences
- Adapt their language to the level of the child
- Model the correct sentence when they hear a child's incorrect utterance
- Extend the child's utterances
- Encourage the children to ask guestions
- Use vocabulary that the children can understand in everyday instructions
- Give children time to respond
- Give a running commentary on the child's activity rather than asking questions most of the time
- Use natural gesture and facial expression to support language
- Use some simple signs to communicate with children who are struggling with language acquisition
- Ensuring that all children have the opportunity to interact individually with an adult if they wish.
- Speaking sensitively to shy or unsettled children.
- Helping children to settle when they arrive if needed.
- Playing alongside children without always directing their play.
- Encouraging children's independence and self confidence by acknowledging all efforts.
- · Facilitating shared play and turn taking.
- Modelling activities and talking about what the child is doing.
- Modelling a range of positive behaviour and language.
- Helping children to develop and extend imaginary play.
- Supporting outdoor play by modelling language based on the child's activities and encouraging peer interaction
- Using questions that invite conversation or encourage reasoning rather than yes or no answers
- Responding positively to children's efforts to communicate
- Giving clear expectations of rules
- Letting children know of expected changes to the day e.g visits of a dentist
- Ensuring that children are forewarned of transitions i.e change of activity
- Actively supporting children in solving their problems and disputes
- Respecting the child's other 'languages' where relevant i.e. home language (if not English), sign language
- Liaising regularly with families regarding what has happened in sessions including those families that depend on others to take their child to the setting

Unique Child

Children.....

- are encouraged to talk about their own interests other than just the task at hand
- are encouraged to speak in groups to children and adults as well as during free play
- have opportunities for supported conversation with their peers as well as opportunities to interact with their peers without adult intrusion
- have opportunities to share books with their peers
- have opportunities to use their own language if English is not their first language
- can access adult support if they feel insecure or lack confidence
- are encouraged to access the whole learning environment and curriculum even if it is difficult for them

Learning & Development

- Often re-reading favourite stories to children
- Making time to say rhymes as well as sing with groups of children
- Frequently supporting songs and stories with actions, objects and puppets
- Using appropriate methods to introduce new concepts and vocabulary
- Seeking opportunities to repeat and reinforce new vocabulary
- Linking children's spoken language and written language
- Giving regular feedback to those who struggle to understand and checking children have understood instructions
- Accepting non verbal communication as well as verbal
- Ensuring that all children (including the least verbal or non-verbal) have a turn at expressing themselves in a group
- Using symbols, pictures or signs to help children with understanding difficulties.
- Have a definite structure which is kept to on most days
- Have parts of the day labelled with names (story time, group time...)
- Ensure that all activities have adult support at times
- Allow for children to make their own choices for part of the session
- Allow time for children to individually share books with an adult if they want to
- Include small group work to encourage language development
- Allow for 1:1 support where necessary to meet individual needs