

Language and Literacy for 2-4 year olds

Spoken Language





Learning to express ourselves is a bit like making a cake.

It involves several different ingredients. The different elements that are involved in spoken language are:

- **Words** - Finding the right word
- **Sentences** – Learning how to put words in a sentence
- **Understanding** – Learning how to use appropriate language
- **Thoughts** - Formulation of ideas and what you want to say

General strategies to help a child to use spoken language:

	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give children a reason to communicate • Model language by commenting on what the child is doing or is interested in • Repeat what the child says clearly • Expand their language by adding 1 or 2 words • Emphasise the words you wish to draw attention to • Use sentences only 1 or 2 words longer than what they use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't correct mistakes in grammar or word order • Avoid closed questions



Storytelling

Early at school, children have to write stories. To succeed with writing stories, it is really important to develop strong oral storytelling skills.

To support your child in being able to tell their own stories spend time reading together. Sharing books at home can have a significant impact on language development.

Some great books to get you started



Shark in the Park **Nick Sharratt**

(Picture Corgi)
'Timothy Pope, Timothy Pope, what can you see through your telescope?' Is it really a shark in the park he can see? Your child will love joining in the words and actions in this fun book.



Oi Frog! **Kes Gray & Jim Field**

(Hodder Children's Books)
These are the rules: cats sit on mats, hares sit on stairs, mules sit on stools... but Frog doesn't want to sit on a log! A hilarious rhyming picture book that will get you and your little one giggling.



The Sheep Who Hatched an Egg **Gemma Merino**

(Macmillan Children's Books)
Lola the sheep spends hours every day looking after her wonderful wool, so she's very upset when one day she loses it. But when her wool grows back wild, she gets a delightful surprise... A lovely story about how friendship is more important than good hair.



We are Family **Patricia Hegarty, illustrated by Ryan Wheatcroft**

(Caterpillar Books)
All families are different, but they all have one thing in common: love. A beautiful book in which most children will be able to see themselves or a family like their own.