

# Early Communication Skills Programme

Children's  
Speech &  
Language  
Therapy



The role of the parent or carer is vital to developing a child's communication skills. We know that using strategies in everyday life is the most effective way for young children to learn and progress. As the main communication partners of a young child, parents are best placed to implement strategies into a child's everyday life. We want to support you to understand and implement strategies that will help your child develop their communication skills.

The Early Communication Skills programme runs as part of the Speech and Language Therapy care pathway for preschool children and their families. The sessions will be run by members of the Speech and Language Therapy team including Specialist Nursery Nurses, Speech and Language Therapists and Speech and Language Therapy Assistants. The team members have lots of experience of working with young children who are at an early stage of communication.



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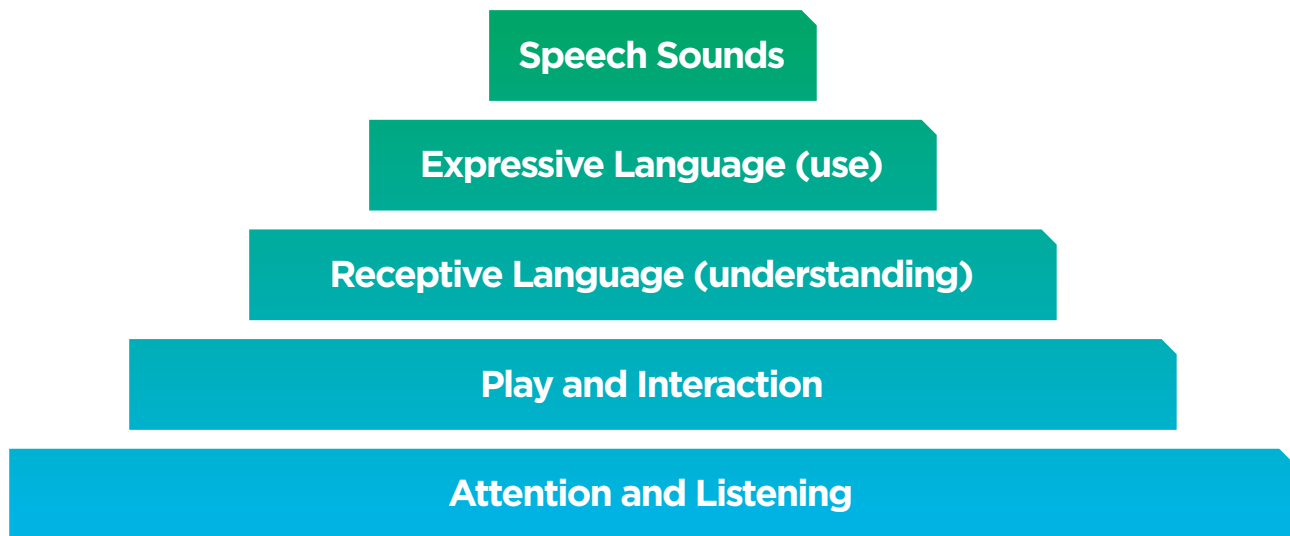
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## Communication Pyramid

It is important for children to have well-developed attention and listening skills, social interaction skills and play skills to develop language and speech. Having solid skills at the bottom of the 'pyramid' helps children to develop the skills at the top!



The programme will target or demonstrate the following skills and approaches:

### Attention and Listening

Key skills children have to learn to develop their communication.

### Joint Attention, Play and Social Skills

Also a key part of being able to communicate.

### Use of Visuals

Helping children understand and/or ask for things to support development of language.

### Makaton signing

Another tool to support communication and the use of speech and language. Both visuals and Makaton signing are proven to support speech, not to replace it.



Your child has been referred to the Early Communication Skills Programme and has been added to the waiting list. You will receive a letter inviting you and your child to attend three group therapy sessions. Before you come to the group sessions, you will need to watch an online presentation which you can access via the Provide website. The group sessions will help to support your child's communication development.

