

Communication Language and Literature

- **The home corner** provides a familiar, safe space for children to practice communication, language, and literacy skills through imitation and role-playing. By recreating scenarios from their daily lives, children can explore language in a meaningful context, expand vocabulary, and develop social skills.
- **Turn-taking games** help communication by teaching the fundamental rhythm of conversation, social skills like listening and waiting, and a two-way interaction style. By taking turns with actions, objects, and words, children learn to recognize when to speak and when to listen, which is crucial for building conversations and relationships.
- **By role-playing and storytelling, puppets** provide a fun way to practice new vocabulary, sentence structure, and narrative skills. They provide a non-judgmental, creative outlet for expression, making it easier for shy or anxious individuals to talk, practice social skills, and work through difficult emotions. They serve as a visual and interactive tool that can simplify complex ideas, introduce new vocabulary and model social interactions. Playing with puppets helps develop communication, language, and literature skills by creating a low-pressure environment for practicing conversation, fostering creative storytelling, and enriching vocabulary. The puppet acts as a safe medium for expression, allowing users to build confidence while exploring narratives and different perspectives.
- **Jigsaws** help develop language, communication, and literacy by promoting vocabulary, enhancing descriptive skills, and building

comprehension. They offer a hands-on, collaborative context for practicing essential verbal and non-verbal skills.

- **Naming objects:** Puzzles that feature objects, animals, or characters introduce new words as children identify and talk about the images on each piece.
- **Theme-specific words:** Themed puzzles expose children to subject-specific vocabulary. For example, a farm puzzle introduces words like "tractor" and "barn," while an alphabet puzzle reinforces letter names and sounds.
- **Describing attributes:** As children match pieces, caregivers can prompt them to describe the pieces' attributes, such as shape, colour, or location, using words like "red," "square," "top," or "next to."
- **Encouraging dialogue:** When children work on puzzles together or with an adult, they engage in conversation, share ideas, and negotiate where pieces go. This interaction is a rich opportunity for practicing communication.
- **Requesting and clarifying:** A child must use expressive language to ask for a specific piece, such as "Can I have the piece with the blue?". In return, caregivers can build receptive language by following requests and asking clarifying questions.
- **Developing teamwork:** Working on a jigsaw as a group teaches collaboration, turn-taking, and sharing. Children learn to listen to and respect others' ideas to achieve a common goal.
- **Fine motor skills:** Manipulating puzzle pieces—grasping, turning, and placing them—strengthens the small muscles

in a child's hands and fingers. This builds the dexterity needed for writing.

- **Attention and focus:** Completing a jigsaw requires sustained concentration, patience, and perseverance. These skills are crucial for focusing on tasks like reading and writing.
- **Visual-spatial skills:** Puzzles develop a child's ability to understand spatial relationships and recognize patterns and shapes, all of which are correlated with later reading ability.
- **Storytelling and narrative skills:** Puzzles featuring a sequence of events help children develop narrative skills. As they build the scene, they can talk about what is happening, predict outcomes, and tell their own stories.
- **Sequencing and logical reasoning:** Piecing a puzzle together requires children to understand and visualize how smaller parts form a larger whole. This skill translates to language comprehension, helping them make sense of how sentences and ideas connect to form a complete story or concept.
- **Reading books** to children is one of the most profound and lasting gifts we can give them. Not only does it foster a lifelong love of learning, but it also lays the foundation for their future academic success, emotional intelligence, and social skills. Through reading, children develop vocabulary, language skills, and comprehension, preparing them for school and beyond. It also sparks their imagination, creativity, and critical thinking, helping them become curious, open-minded, and empathetic individuals. Moreover, reading together creates

a special bond between child and caregiver, promoting closeness, trust, and emotional connection. As children listen to stories, they gain valuable insights into different cultures, perspectives, and experiences, broadening their understanding of the world and its complexities. Perhaps most importantly, reading books to children instils a sense of wonder, awe, and joy, helping them develop a positive attitude towards learning and a love for the magic of stories. By reading to our children, we give them the keys to unlock a brighter, more enlightened future, and the benefits will last a lifetime.

- **Writing area-Mark-making activities** like gripping a range of tools and making marks in different media, using a brush, crayons or squeezing playdough strengthen the small muscles in the hands and fingers needed for writing. It also serves as a form of emotional expression and a fundamental step toward learning to write.
- **Threading** helps fine motor skills by strengthening small hand and finger muscles, improving dexterity and control, and refining hand-eye coordination. It requires using the pincer grip to pick up and manipulate small objects and coordinating movements between the hands and eyes to thread the lace through the hole. This skill is foundational for future tasks like writing, buttoning, and using scissors.
- **Telephones:**
 - **Encourages conversation and turn-taking:** The structure of a phone conversation requires turn-taking, with one person speaking and the other listening. This helps children learn to respond appropriately and hold a sustained conversation.
 - **Builds vocabulary:** Children can be encouraged to use new words within the context of their imagined roles. For

example, during a pretend phone call to a restaurant, they can practice words like "reservation" or specific food items.

- **Develops listening skills:** Without the benefit of seeing the other person's face, a child must listen intently to follow the conversation. This sharpens auditory skills and encourages them to respond thoughtfully.
- Offer opportunities to **practices different tones:** Role-playing different phone calls—such as a frantic call to a rescue team or a happy one to a friend—allows children to experiment with how vocal tone conveys emotion and context.
- **Explores social cues:** When acting out familiar scenarios like calling a parent, children imitate the language and body language they have observed in real life. This practice helps them understand social norms in a safe, controlled environment.