

# Oracy at Kenmore Park Infant & Nursery School

*How talk can help your child*



# What is oracy?

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**Oracy**= *the ability to express oneself fluently and grammatically in speech.*

***The aim is for every child to find their voice...***

# Why is it important?

Employers rank verbal communication as the most important skill for employees

In areas of deprivation 50% of children start school with below average language skills

“Over 20 major international studies make it clear that the quality of talk within a classroom raises standards”  
Prof. Robin Alexander

On average, teachers do 90% of the talking with individual students saying approximately four words per lesson

R. Page 2005

“Our research shows that when students learn how to use talk to reason together, they become better at reasoning on their own”

Prof Neil Mercer

“The capacity to display strong communication and debating skills, and act in a confident manner at interview”  
SMCP Commission: ‘Non Educational Barriers to Elite Professions’

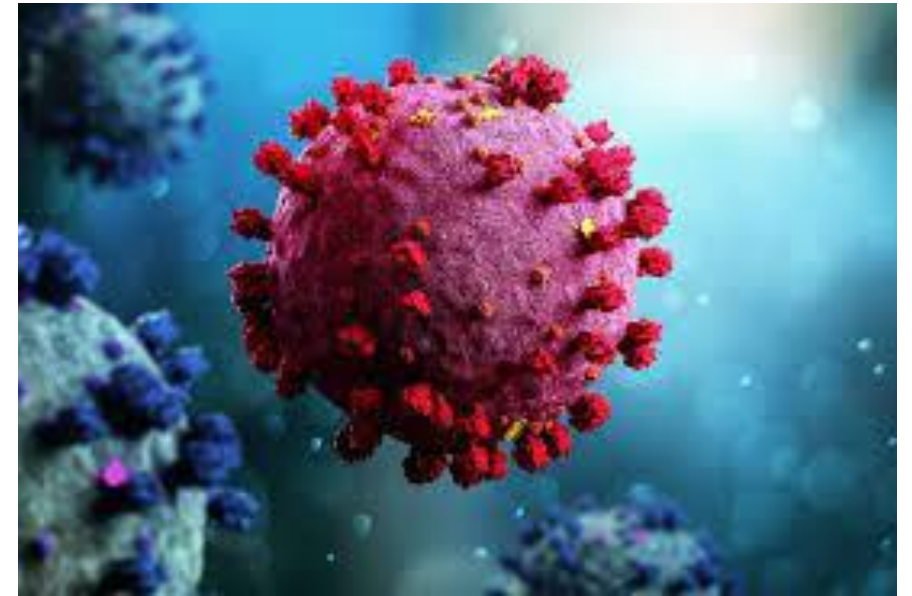
By the age of 3, children from privileged families hear 30 million more words than children from underprivileged backgrounds

“Leaving education without adequate speaking skills is a serious blight on young people's lives & a major handicap when they're looking for work.”

Katja Hall, D. Director CBI

Three in four people suffer speech anxiety





# What does good communication look like?

## **Basics:**

- Eye contact
- Clear voice
- Able to make someone understand us!





## Physical

### Voice

- Pace of speaking
- Tonal variation
- Clarity of pronunciation
- Voice projection

### Body language

- Gesture & posture
- Facial expression & eye contact



## Linguistic

### Vocabulary

- Appropriate vocabulary choice

### Language

- Register
- Grammar

### Rhetorical techniques

- Rhetorical techniques such as metaphor, humour, irony & mimicry



## Cognitive

### Content

- Choice of content to convey meaning & intention
- Building on the views of others

### Structure

- Structure & organisation of talk

### Clarifying & summarising

- Seeking information & clarification through questions/ing
- Summarising

### Self-regulation

- Maintaining focus on task
- Time management

### Reasoning

- Giving reasons to support views
- Critically examining ideas & views expressed



## Social & Emotional

### Working with others

- Guiding or managing interactions
- Turn-taking

### Listening & responding

- Listening actively & responding appropriately

### Confidence in speaking

- Self assurance
- Liveliness & flair

### Audience awareness

- Taking account of level of understanding of the audience

## What can we do about it?



The models we hear  
as our daily diet



The explicit teaching  
of spoken English



The correction of  
inaccuracies

# Avoid 'Yes/No questions!'

Did you have a  
good time in school  
today?

Did you like the TV  
programme?

Was your  
homework  
hard?

What was the  
best thing that  
happened in  
school today?

Who was your  
favourite  
character?

What was the  
hardest part of  
your homework?

Who/What/When/  
Where/ How/Why



When playing, don't ask too many questions!



# Valuable Talk Experiences:

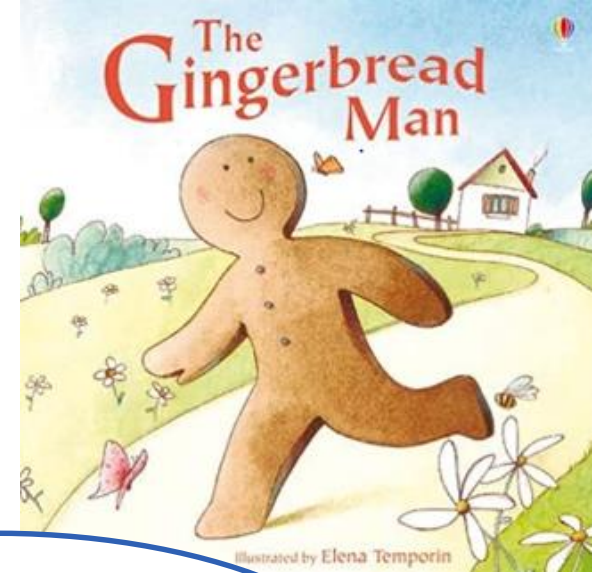
- Solving a problem collaboratively
- Discussing an issue
- Explaining something
- Engaging in role play



# Reading...

- Listen
- How was the character feeling?
- How do you think the character was feeling?
- I wonder if...

Why did the gingerbread man run away?



He wanted to make  
some new friends.

The gingerbread man  
wanted to go on holiday.

He thought the animals  
and people wanted to  
eat him.

He wants to get fit.



Which one does not belong?

**WHICH IS THE ODD ONE OUT?**





Which one does not belong?

1, 5, 9, 0

# Always, sometimes, never

- A square is a rectangle
- Multiples of 5 always end in 5
- When you add 2 odd numbers, you get an even number
- A quadrilateral has 4 right angles
- Multiples of 10 always end in 0

# Would you rather?

- Would you rather be a fish or a bird?
- Would you rather live in the year 2300 or 1300?

# General tips!

- Choose your times...
- Think about how your child likes to communicate
- Think about where is a good place to communicate – face to face is often not the best (the car/bus is often good)
- Play!

# Other things we can do...

1. Discuss a news article –watch Newsround

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/news/watch\\_newsround](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/news/watch_newsround) and ask

- questions about this. For example, ‘How did the children feel?’

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- Talk about vocabulary – ‘What does this word mean?’ – after reading a book or just hearing a new word.
- Discuss a T.V. programme – talk about what happened. Ask them what they liked about it or what might happen in the next show.
- Come up with a word of the day – encourage new vocabulary learnt to be used in your child’s in a conversation they have that day.



- Listen to different types of oracy – podcasts, poetry, radio shows, television programmes, educational videos, speech, job interview, comedy or music.
- Interview someone – encourage your child to interview a neighbour, a family member or a family friend. Come up with the questions together and identify what they might learn from this experience.
- Demonstrate correct spoken English – if your child says, “I’m gonna go shop.” Correct this with, “I am going to go to the shop.”

- Create a talk box – this is an exciting way to ensure conversations take place in your house. This could be an item that can be collected by you or your child. It can be as simple as a leaf, with the idea that you or your child talk in detail about how you came to have the leaf in your talk box.
- Play a game and discuss the rules – this can be as simple as playing different board games and getting your child to explain the rules or using the games suggested below.
- Play more...and then play again! Pretend to be characters in a book. Follow your child's play –if they want to pretend to be a doctor, let them help you! Use the kinds of words the doctor or patient would use. Add a bit more to what your child is saying. If they are using one word, add another one. If they are using 2 words, add another!

# What the school is doing...

- Sentence Stems...
- Discussion guidelines
- Talk homework