



Talking about.....Starting School

Speech, language and communication skills are crucial to young children's overall development, and we know that talking is used for every aspect of learning at school including literacy, maths, PE, art, music and much much more..

In those last few months before children start school, it can feel overwhelming and challenging to get them fully prepared. This is a big step in terms of their independence and they will be learning in a whole new way.

Supporting your child with their language skills can really give them a head start for learning and making friends.

When we talk about speech, language and communication skills, we mean ALL of the skills that children need to communicate. This includes:

- Listening and attention
- Understanding words and instructions
- Using new words
- Explaining what they need or want
- Having a conversation
- Having speech that can be

Listening is a real foundation skill for school and there are so many opportunities to help your child listen out for new words. Try to:

- Get your child's attention before you speak to them. When they are little, they will struggle to "listen and do"
- Turn the television down and make sure that you look at each other when you are chatting.
- Share Apps and watch the television **together** so that you can talk about what's happening.
- Bop down to your child's eye level so they can "see" what you are saying too. This really helps with tricky words and for them to focus.