

# Learning to Talk

Parent Workshop

Welcome





# Bygrove's mission

Combating  
social  
inequality



# Our vision - 4 promises to pupils



Our vision is that every child in every school in our trust:

Loves learning, achieves their very best, has fun at school and feels excited about the future

Knows how to make friends and get along well with people; to treat them with fairness, compassion and respect

Grows healthy and strong, believes in themselves and has the confidence and resilience to follow their dreams

Feels part of their community, proud of their school and inspired to make a positive difference in the world





**One in 4** (23%) children who struggle with language at age 5 **do not reach the expected standard in English** at the end of primary school, compared with just **1 in 25** (4%) children who had good language skills at age 5

Research and analysis

## Best start in life part 1: setting the scene

Updated 8 October 2024

**Why is this so important for us? What's the knock on effect?**



**Boys** who are **eligible for free school meals** are **much more likely to fall behind** in communication and language by the age of 5

The gender gap is the **highest in more deprived areas**. These children are **less able to access the curriculum** and to **articulate their thoughts and feelings**

Research and analysis

## **Best start in life part 1: setting the scene**

Updated 8 October 2024

**Why is this so important for us? What's the knock on effect?**



Children in early years and KS1 settings today will have spent a good proportion of their lives in the pandemic. They have had **fewer opportunities for social interaction** beyond their immediate family because of lockdowns and social restrictions ...

... these children's **communication and language skills were not as strong** as those of previous cohorts

Research and analysis

## Best start in life part 1: setting the scene

Updated 8 October 2024

**Why is this so important  
for us?**



... a long-standing body of research suggests that **early communication and language skills** have a significant influence on children's **achievement at school** and other later outcomes, including **employability** and **mental health**

Research and analysis

## Best start in life part 2: the 3 prime areas of learning

Updated 8 October 2024

Why is this so important for us?

# Our vision for Oracy



***“At Bygrove, every learner is empowered to find their voice for success in education and life.”***





# Our focus

## **2025-2026**

We will learn how to intentionally develop pupils' speaking, listening, and communication skills (**'learning to talk'**)

## **2026-2027**

We will learn how to use talk as a powerful tool to deepen pupils' subject knowledge and understanding across all disciplines (**'learning through talk'**)

# Evidence of what works



Education  
Endowment  
Foundation

Impact (months) ⓘ

+6

months



# What is oracy?

Oracy is the ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through spoken language, listening and communication.

Oracy Education Commission, 2024





‘Children don’t learn words from dictionaries, they take them from other people’s’ mouths.’

‘All learning floats on a sea of talk.’

# It's not only what we say, but how we say it and what we do!

## VISUAL WHAT WE SEE...

Eye Contact  
Facial Expression  
Posture  
Hand Gestures  
Movement  
Body Language  
Appearance



## VOCAL HOW WE SAY IT...

Clarity  
Pitch  
Pace  
Pause  
Projection  
Emphasis  
Tone



## VERBAL WHAT WE SAY...

Stories  
Facts & Statistics  
Quotations  
Jokes  
Rhetoric  
Imagery  
Opinion





## Physical

Are you thinking about the **speed** and **volume** of your voice?



Are you using **gestures** and **expression** to help make your point?



Are you **facing** who you are **speaking** or **listening** to?



## Linguistic

Are you using **sentence stems** to link others' ideas?



Are you using **new** and **appropriate** vocabulary?



## Cognitive

Is what you want to say **clear** and **organised**?



Are you asking **relevant questions** and **responding** to others?



Are you giving **reasons** for what you are saying?



## Social & Emotional

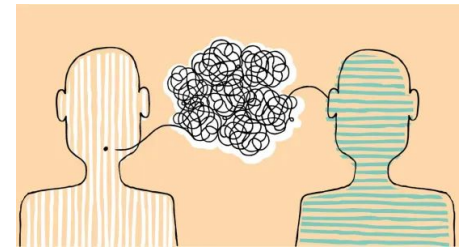
Are you **taking turns** to talk and **listen** and **encouraging others** to take part?



Are you talking **confidently** and **thinking** about your **audience**?



# Why is oracy important for children?



- Being a strong and effective communicator is a great skill to have throughout your life!
- Good oracy skills can help children in every subject that they learn in school. It helps you to express your thoughts and opinions about what you're learning and interact with others thoughtfully.
- Good oracy also means that children will be able to express themselves when they do understand, when they don't understand or need some support. You will be able to reach out and explain what you're thinking, what you need help with or explain how you got to an answer!



- Building strong relationships depends on good oracy, to help form friendships with your friends and teachers.
- When you're upset or angry about something, then you can express your frustrations and talk about what's upsetting you.
- Teaching oracy NOW will mean that you will have a greater chance of growing up into adults who can healthily express your feelings and be more capable of dealing with a range of emotions.





# Our WHY: Tower Hamlets

- Tower Hamlets is the 4th most linguistically diverse area in England & Wales: the Census identified at least 90 different languages being used in the borough.
- Over one third of adults (35 per cent) in Tower Hamlets use a main language other than English.
- Women in TH were twice as likely as men to have low English proficiency levels (12 vs. 6 per cent).
- Proficiency in English is strongly associated with employment levels. Within the working age population, residents whose first language was English were almost three times more likely to be in work compared with those who had poor proficiency levels (71 vs. 25 per cent).
- Workers with poor proficiency in English were far more likely than average to work part-time.

# What do we need from you?



- If a child asks a question, try to provide a clear reasoned answer
- If they ask why...? Give a reason and try to use keywords such as 'because' and 'if'
- Ask your children some open questions that don't need right answers - try to find out their opinion about something and allow them time to think
- Make a statement rather than ask a question - I heard lunch was amazing today! Rather than how was lunch?
- Ask questions and ask them to elaborate on their ideas
- Encourage them to recall events from the past and maybe use them to make up stories
- During play or activities model thinking out loud: 'This is going well but I wonder what would happen if I add another block to this tower.'

Do not just put your child in front of a screen!



Children who are **read** to and **spoken** to show the most improvement in **vocabulary**.

If you have more words at your disposal then you have a better chance at making sense of the world and expressing yourself.



# Bilingual families



## **IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT LANGUAGE YOU SPEAK!**

Before the age of 12, children actually find it easier to learn a new language.

Children that speak more than one language, are more able to concentrate on a task and are actually more creative!

Speaking another language builds community and gives access to diverse cultural resources!





THANK YOU!