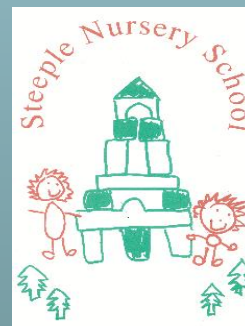# Steeple Nursery School

Language Development: The importance of reading with your child

"A book is a gift you can open again and again."
Garrison Keillor

Language development is vitally important to living and learning. We require language to:

- Communicate with others
- Share and express our feelings
- Gain information

Being able to understand and use language allows children to:

➢ Make their needs and feelings known

➢ Interact with others

➢ Self regulate their emotions

➢ Learn independently and collaboratively

Spending Quality Time with Your Child

❖Play
❖Talk
❖Listen
❖Read books

Why is reading so important:

❖ Reading is one of the fundamental building blocks of learning

❖ Reading is about receiving information

❖ It is more than reading from books, it is reading from signs, packaging, magazines, screens

❖ It allows children to learn that both print and picture gives us meaning

❖ Children learn that reading gives pleasure

The benefits of reading and sharing books frequently with your child:

❖ Bonding time, family time
❖ Sharing experiences
❖ Enjoyment and fun
❖ Develops listening and attention skills
❖ Models good language & vocabulary
❖ Extends your child's vocabulary
❖ Enhances imagination
❖ Extends general knowledge
❖ Raises confidence
❖ Develops social skills

When reading aloud to your child the following strategies are employed:

- ❖ Physical handling of the book
- ❖ Eye contact
- ❖ Vocal expression
- ❖ Facial expression
- ❖ Sound effects
- ❖ Questioning
- ❖ Actions
- ❖ Voice and tone
- ❖ Prediction

Tips for reading with your child:

- Create the right environment for reading
- Choose a quiet time when you have less chance of being distracted
- Have a routine of a story at bed time
- Choose a book together
- Talk about the front cover with your child
- Read your child's favourite book many times
- Have lots of reading material in your house
- Visit your local library
- Have fun!!