



LANGUAGE/LITERACY DEVELOPMENT



The staff of The Grove are always striving to promote opportunities to encourage children to engage in meaningful, 'natural' two way communications with staff, peers and visitors, to enhance the children's rapidly growing vocabulary and the acquisition of important early language skills. We believe such language and communication skills can be encouraged in all areas of play, within the classroom and during outdoor play. We use every opportunity to develop such skills.

In the past, staff have worked alongside the Capacity Building Pilot Programme, RISE Team and participated in the 'Getting Ready To Learn' Programme to develop techniques which will have enormous linguistic benefits for all children but especially those who are reticent to speak e.g. Circle time, Small Group time, the use of puppets and Small World toys, sharing books and 'natural' conversations on the 'Chatty Sofa', playing board games in the afternoon, the use of 'open' questions and 'Owling' (observing, waiting and listening, a support method used by the staff.)

We have an extensive supply of fictional and factual books and parents are encouraged to use our rhyme/song sheets to continue learning at home. The lending library (for parents and children) and the borrowing of 'Storysacks' (Term 2) introduces the children to the love of literature.

The children also have the opportunity to invite Barnaby and Belinda Bear to come for a weekend 'sleepover'. This provides a vital link between home and school, the children come back on Monday, excited and willing to share aloud their 'adventures' with the rest of the class or a smaller group. The whole school enjoys looking at and talking about the photographs in the scrapbook that accompanies the Bears on their visits. The written word takes on a new relevance and is meaningful to the children. This hopefully will resume when Covid restrictions are relaxed!

Throughout the busy Nursery year, we have numerous visitors/experts to supplement our teaching and to foster a love of language, rhythm and music. (puppet theatre, actors, storytellers, librarians and 'people who help') The children, excited by such visits, are having their listening skills enhanced, without even realising!