



Oracy and Vocabulary across EYFS

At Cragside Church of England Primary, high quality interactions are at the heart of our Early Years Curriculum. We recognise that children learn language best through warm, responsive conversations with adults who model rich vocabulary and extend thinking. Our practice is guided by the research which says that 'communication and language provide the foundations for learning and thinking' EEF Preparing for Literacy. We follow the research informed approaches in the form of SHREC ensuring interactions are sustained, responsive, emotionally supportive, and rooted in genuine relationships. In addition we prioritise oracy, which supports children to develop the ability to express ideas clearly, listen with understanding, and engage confidently in spoken communication. Oracy underpins all learning and is central to children's thinking, social development, and emotional wellbeing. Through carefully planned vocabulary progression and intentional talk, we aspire for every child to become a confident, effective communicator who can express their needs, thoughts, and feelings clearly, laying strong foundations for lifelong learning and success. Our progressive vocabulary ensures that children build their language and communication skills step by step, in a way that is meaningful, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate.

Little stars

Focus: naming, understanding, confidence, early communication				
Every day core vocabulary	Self and feelings	Routines and environment	Nature and seasons	Mathematical language
hello, bye-bye, me, mine, you, mummy, daddy, family, happy, sad, tired, stop, go, wait, more, all gone, help, please, story, book, picture, look, listen, turn (page), again, finished, favourite	name, face, hands, feet, happy, sad, scared	coat, shoes, snack, tidy, inside, outside During snack and lunchtime adults sit with the children and use this opportunity to develop everyday conversation skills, this is ongoing throughout until the end of Reception.	leaf, tree, rain, sun, cold, wet, wind, cloud, hot, cold, wet, dry, light, dark, flower, grass, water, mud, snow	Number (Pre-Number Language) (No expectation to count or recognise numerals – language is embedded through play and routines.) -one (in context only), more, lots, again, gone, all gone, some, another, stop Shape (Early Shape Awareness) (Shapes are named through objects, not abstract geometry.) - shape, round, box, ball, big, little Position & Measure (Early Spatial & Sensory Language) - in, out, on, off, up, down, here, there, full, empty



Nursery

Focus: short sentences, describing, questioning, organising play				
Every day core vocabulary	PSED	Stories and Literacy	Nature and seasons	Mathematical language
because, same, different, before, after, fast, slow, share, kind, listen	me, mine, family, friend, happy, sad, kind, gentle, share, take turns, same, different, welcome, belong, try, practise, help, proud, clean, healthy, exercise, food, safe, unsafe, friend, feelings, love, caring, together, change, grow, body, private	story, book, beginning, middle, end, picture, word, page, title, rhyme, repeated phrase.	conker, acorn, leaf, crunchy, windy, melting, season, autumn, winter, spring, summer, sunny, rainy, windy, cloudy, warm, cold, ice, snow, leaves, flowers, plants, seeds, soil, grow, change, day, night	Number - number, counting, one, two, three, more, lots, none, zero, same, different, count, four, five, fewer, all gone, another, count to five, match, equal, not equal, add, takeaway (informal language) Shape - shape, circle, square, big, small, triangle, rectangle, round, straight, curved, straight, corners, sides Position & Measure - in, on, under, up, down, full, empty, next to, between, heavy, light, long, short, taller, shorter, faster, slower, day, night

Reception

Focus: precise language, explanation, narrative, reflection				
Every day core vocabulary	PSED	Stories and Literacy	Nature and seasons	Mathematical language
describe, explain, predict, compare, remember, decide	feelings, rules, choices, kind, respect, fair, different, same, belong, community, goal, challenge, effort, practise, proud, healthy exercise, hygiene, safe,	story, fiction, non-fiction, author, illustrator, character, setting, beginning, middle, end, problem, solution, retell, sequence, predict, explain, opinion	observe, change, growth, life cycle, hibernation, seasons, autumn, winter, spring, summer, weather, temperature, sunny, cloudy, windy, rainy, frost, ice, melt, grow, change, life cycle, seed,	Number - number, zero to five, count forwards, one more, one less, same, equal, numbers to ten, tens frame, part, whole, addition, subtraction, altogether, how many left? numbers to twenty, doubles, sharing, grouping, equal groups Shape - circle, triangle, square, rectangle, sides, corners, pentagon, hexagon, cube,



	risk, relationship, trust, care, cooperation, feelings, changes, growing, body parts, private, permission		roots, stem, leaves, blossom, harvest, light, dark	cuboid, sphere, cone, cylinder, pattern, repeating Position & Measure - in front, behind, taller, shorter, heavier, lighter, left, right, before, after, length, height, weight, time, o'clock, days of the week, money, coins
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