Area of the Curriculum – **Communication and Language - Listening and Attention**

**Early Learning Goal:** (expected to achieve by end of Reception)

Children listen attentively in a range of situations. They listen to stories, accurately anticipating key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions. They give their attention to what others say and respond appropriately, while engaged in another activity.

Suggested activities

* Books and stories – reading to your child and discussing the stories- Can your child retell the story?
* Listening to audio books
* Taking part in family conversations – round the dinner table etc

Area of the Curriculum – **Communication and Language - Understanding**

**Early Learning Goal**: (expected to achieve by end of Reception)

Children follow instructions involving several ideas or actions. They answer ‘how’ and ‘why’ questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events.

Suggested activities

* Give your child instructions to do things around the house – e.g Can you put your toy in the box and go and get your coat?
* Ask lots of why and how questions- e.g I wonder why the leaves are starting to grow on the trees?
* Taking part in conversations - responds appropriately, understanding what is said e.g conversations round the dinner table

See Reading question prompts

Area of the Curriculum – **Communication and Language - Speaking**

**Early Learning Goal**: (expected to achieve by end of Reception)

Children express themselves effectively, showing awareness of listeners’ needs. They use past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future. They develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas or events.

Suggested activities

* Making up stories
* Retelling events/stories
* Longer conversations

**Every Child a Talker**

**12 Tips for Parents**

1. Get your child’s attention first – Get down to your child’s level and engage them before speaking or asking questions
2. Describe your everyday activities to help your child join in and learn new words
3. Keep sentences short
4. Use a full range of expression. Speak in a lively animated voice and use gestures and facial expression to help your children understand
5. Try not to ask too many questions
6. Imitate your child’s language. This will show you are listening and care what they say
7. Give your child time to respond. Count to 5 before you expect an answer
8. Build on what your child says e.g. if your child says “*daddy!*” you could say “ *daddy gone*” or “*daddy car*”
9. Praise the child for what they say and model correct language rather than pointing out mistakes e.g. if your child says “I runned up the hill” you could say “wow! You ran up the hill!”
10. Increase vocabulary by giving choices, e.g. “Do you want juice or milk?”
11. Try and have special time with your child each day to play with toys and picture books. Talk to your child when you are playing together.
12. Limit TV time. Try to watch TV together so you can talk about what happens.