

"Let's talk about it"

Lydalls Nursery has been selected to take part in a Government-funded initiative called ECaT (Every Child a Talker) with Janet as our lead practitioner. Children's ability to speak, listen to and understand language has deteriorated nationally so we are delighted to have the opportunity to focus on this aspect of our children's development over the coming year. The use and understanding of the spoken word is at the centre of all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. The following examples illustrate some of the ways in which we will be encouraging every child at Lydalls to become confident talkers and listeners and therefore learners! These are all things you can do at home too, listening to and speaking to your children is free and the most rewarding thing you can do. Remember too, that if they tell you anything interesting, please share it with us via the 'Sharing box'.

↔ Personal, Social and Emotional development

- ✓ Encourage children to share their feelings and experiences using talk.
- ✓ Provide opportunities to speak and listen to each other (we do this in their group times and at carpet time) but bath and bedtimes are great too.

↔ Communication, Language and Literacy

- ✓ Listen to children and take account of what they say in your responses to them.
- ✓ Introduce new words and explain their meaning during play activities.
- ✓ Enjoy shared experiences (eg going to the park) that children can talk about and reflect upon with you.
- ✓ Share stories together and talk about characters and sequences of events.

↔ Problem solving, reasoning and numeracy

- ✓ Talk about the numbers, patterns and shapes you see all around you (on doors, cars, signs) and what they mean.
- ✓ Play board games and do puzzles, talk about what you are doing.

↔ Knowledge and Understanding of the World

- ✓ Talk to your children about the things around them and discuss why things happen or how things work.
- ✓ Talk about special times in your life and those of the children and also about special places you've visited.

↔ Creative Development

- ✓ Encourage children to discuss and appreciate the beauty around them in nature and the environment.
- ✓ Talk about colours and textures and patterns and why they like them.
- ✓ Talk in different ways, eg quietly, slowly or gruffly for fun in pretend games or when telling or reading stories.

↔ Physical Development

- ✓ Talk with children about body parts and how they feel when exercising, teaching vocabulary (hot, sweaty, thirsty).
- ✓ Talk about taking care when moving freely in small spaces and talk about keeping safe when walking beside roads. We will be undertaking road safety training for our full time children this term during their lunchtime activities.