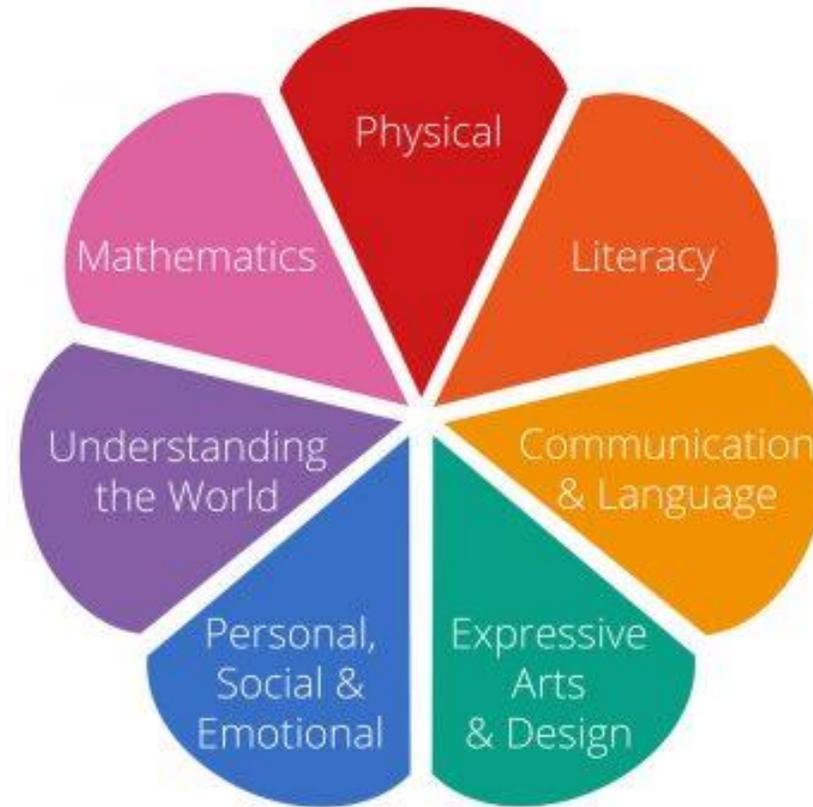


St Mary Magdalene  
Early Years Workshop for  
Parents-Communication  
and Language

# The 7 areas of learning in the Early Years



# Aims

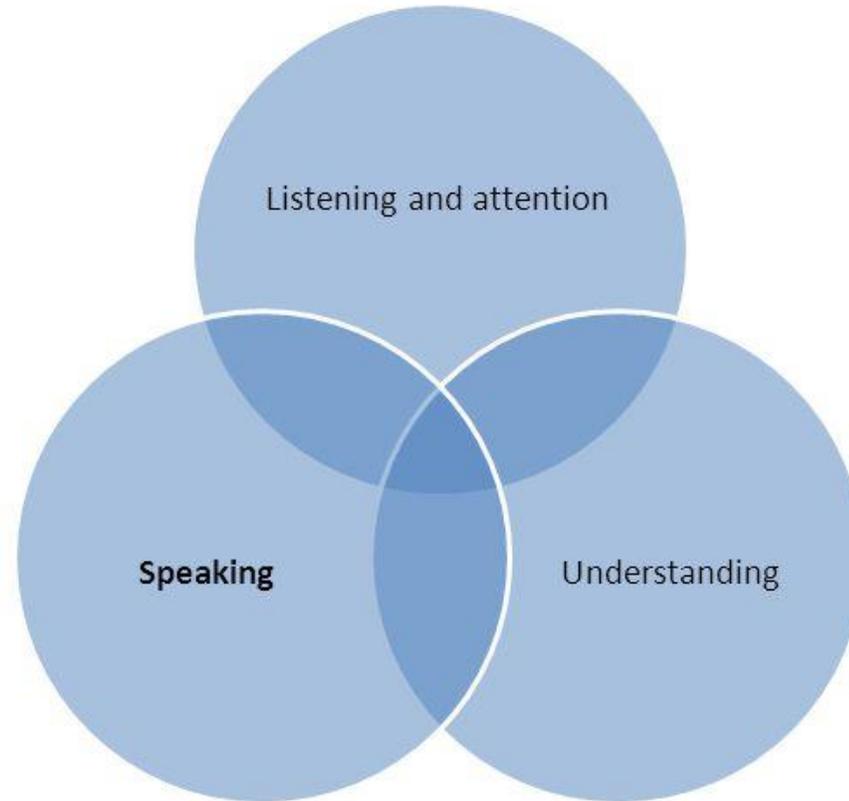
- To know where we want our children to be by the end of Reception.
- To understand how Communication and Language is taught at St Mary Magdalene.
- To get tips and ideas for developing your child's communication and language skills.



# What is Communication and Language



## Three aspects of CL in the EYFS



# Listening and Attention

- What we want from our children:
- · They can listen attentively in a range of situations.
- · They enjoy listening to stories, can anticipate key events and respond to what they hear.
- · They listen to what others say and respond appropriately even when engaged in another activity.

# Understanding

- What we want from our children:
- To be able to respond to instructions, including instructions involving several ideas or actions.
- To understand humour. e.g. nonsense rhymes, jokes.
- To be able to follow a story without pictures or props.
- To listen to and respond to ideas expressed by others in conversation or discussion.
- To answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events.

# Speaking

- To express themselves effectively, sticking to a main theme or intention.
- To use talk to organise, sequence and clarify thinking, ideas, feelings and events.
- To show awareness of listeners' needs.
- To use the past, present and future tense accurately when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future.
- To develop their own narratives.

*It supports your child's ability to communicate, and express and understand feelings. It also supports thinking and problem-solving, and developing and maintaining relationships. Learning to understand, use and enjoy language is the critical first step in literacy, and the basis for learning to read and write.*

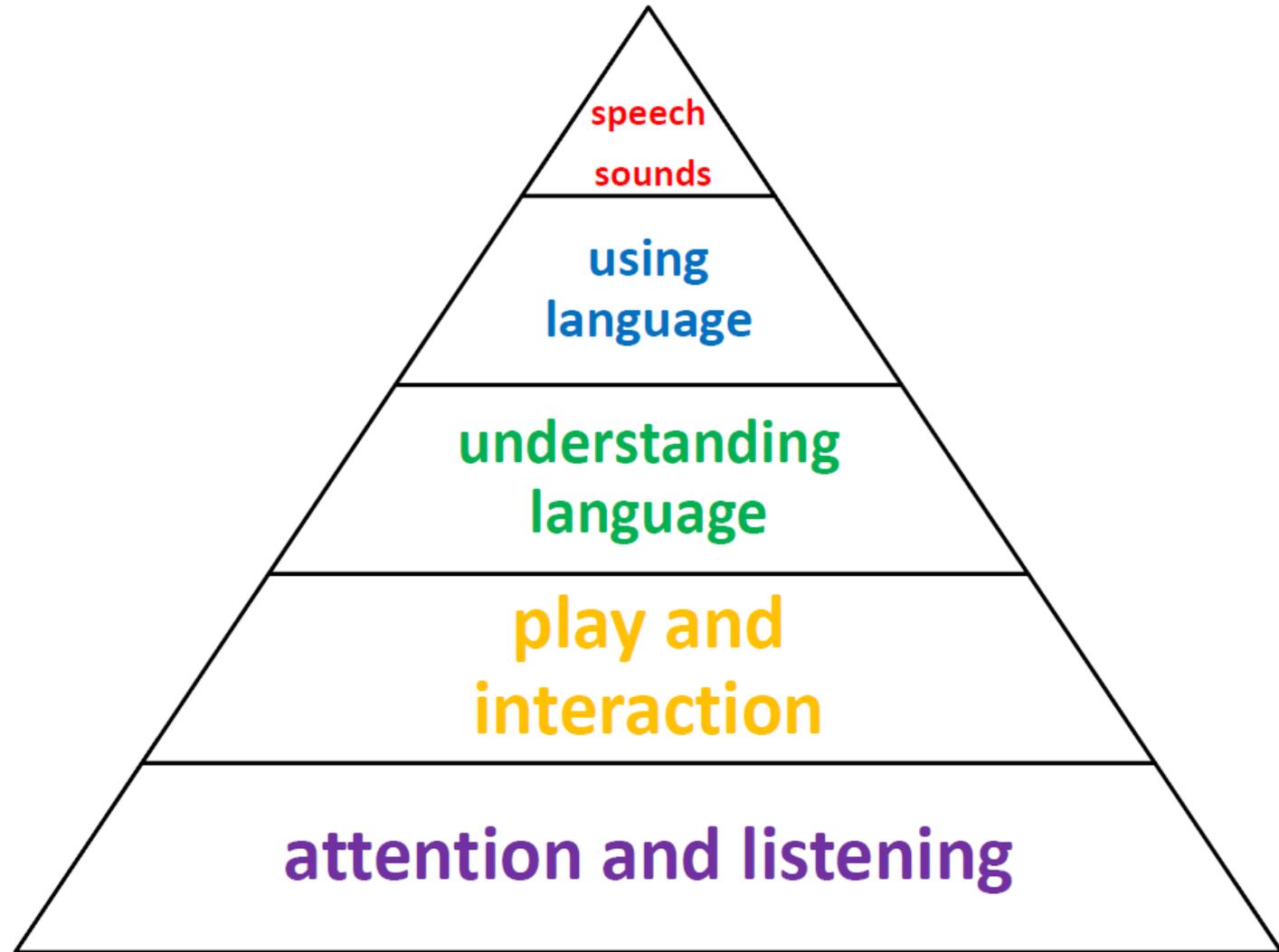
# Speaking age



## Does your child do this?

- **3-5 years**  
You can expect longer, more abstract and more complex conversations now. For example, your child might say things like, 'Will I grow into a watermelon because I swallowed the watermelon seed?'
- Your child will probably also want to talk about a wide range of topics, and her vocabulary will keep growing. She might show that she understands the basic rules of grammar, as she experiments with more complex sentences that have words like 'because', 'if', 'so' or 'when'. And you can look forward to some entertaining stories too.
- Find out more about [language development from 3-4 years](#) and [language development from 4-5 years](#).
- **5-8 years**  
During the early school years, your child will learn more words and start to understand how the sounds within language work together. He'll also become a better storyteller, as he learns to put words together in different ways and build different types of sentences. These skills also let him share ideas and opinions. By eight years, he'll be able to have adult-like conversations.
- Find out more about [language development from 5-8 years](#).

Why is it important?



# Activities to encourage Communication and Language we use:

- Stories (Adult reads and uses different voices/intonation)
- Rhymes (nonsense rhymes, poetry and nursery rhymes)
- Songs
- Experiences walks in the park, trips to the museum, going to the shops etc.
- Puppets, toys, dressing up
- Listening walks.

Anything that develops vocabulary!

## Tips to remember:

- Speak clearly, facing your child when speaking
- Take time to sit with your child and talk each day reading time.
- Let your child lead in play develops self-confidence.
- Expand on what your child is saying
- Correct through gentle repetition.
- Ask 'how' and 'why' questions to get a deeper insight into their understanding. **Why do you think that? How do you know?**

## At home activities:

- Play with your children and encourage imagination and dialogue.
- Take you child shopping and talk about what you see, hear, can smell etch on the way there and in the shops. Ask for their opinion explain why? How?
- Do things together art work, planting, trips and outings and talk about the experience.
- **MODEL** language in different situations!