

Term 3 Parents' Lecture (Year 1)

Week 1: Expanding your Child's Vocabulary Bank

Receptive Vocabulary	Expressive Vocabulary
Words understood by the child when he/she hears or reads them.	Words used by the child when he/she speaks.

Importance of Vocabulary:

- ❖ Vocabulary is the basis for learning language.
- ❖ Strongly relates to reading comprehension, intelligence, and general ability.

Gauge of Child Development:

- ❖ Children begin using their first words at about 12 or 13 months of age.
- ❖ They use partial words to convey thoughts at even younger ages. (e.g. saying "ju" for the word "juice".)
- ❖ Easy for parents to keep track of their growing vocabularies.

What can parents do at home?

- ❖ Show many different types of flashcards to teach them vocabulary.
- ❖ Read plenty of story books.

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Week 2: Linguistic Development

Language, literacy and communication are crucial and important factors in child development. Language is a form of communication to express thoughts, ideas, feelings, emotions and information.

Alphabet Chart:

- ❖ Put the alphabet chart on the wall at eye level where your child can see it easily in daily life.
- ❖ Recognise and find letters from the alphabet chart.

Alphabet Flashcards:

- ❖ Recognise and choose the correct letter using flashcards.
- ❖ Once your child is able to say A to Z, hold the hand and trace the letters on the cards to reinforce knowledge.

Alphabet & Phonics Songs:

- ❖ Listening to alphabet and phonics songs helps your child to pick up the names and sounds of the letters subconsciously.
- ❖ Encourage your child to say them together.

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Week 3: Learning a Second Language

Benefits:

- ❖ May learn to read sooner than monolingual children of the same age.
- ❖ Better concentration and analytical skills that are attained through the understanding of the different linguistic systems.
- ❖ The option to live abroad and learn other foreign languages easily later in life.
- ❖ Exposure to different cultures makes it easier to accept and understand other people.

The first few years of life are believed to be the vital period for a child to learn languages. This is where the foundations for attitudes, thinking, and learning are laid down.

Things to do at home:

- ❖ Input the language through play and songs.
- ❖ Learn language through fun activities, music and stories.
- ❖ Play songs in the background so that children are listening to them with their subconscious mind.
- ❖ Input words using flashcards.

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Week 4: Communication/Conversation

- ❖ Communication is about children **sharing their thoughts, feelings, ideas and experiences** with others with confidence and competence.
- ❖ Communication involves giving, receiving and making sense of information; and it is a **two-way activity**.
- ❖ Children can communicate in many different ways, including **facial expressions, gestures, body movement, sounds and language**. Their language is more than words, phrases and sentences. It includes dance, music, poetry, art, singing and stories.

Being a good communicator is vital to children's development. Therefore, it is important that parents encourage communication by listening to them, interpreting what they are saying, responding to them, and modelling good communication.

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Week 5: Mirroring Child's Language

Dr Carl Rogers' Person-Centered Technique

As important as it is to talk to our children, it is equally important to listen to what they have to say. Children who feel that they are heard feel loved. If you are constantly scolding your child, it is difficult to listen to his point of view. Additionally, when a child is constantly being scolded, he will close up his heart.

Main Aim:

Putting yourself in the shoes of your child to understand how he feels when communicating with him.

- Be reflective, acting as a mirror of your child's feelings and thoughts.
- Allow your child to gain a clearer understanding of his own inner thought, perceptions and emotions by "echoing".

Negative Example

Child: *Mummy, I did something bad today.*

Mother: *What! What did you do? Why are you such a bad girl?*

In this example, the mother **shuts the door to communication**, leaving the child in a worse situation and making him feel like running away and **not continue with the communication**.

Positive Example

Child: *Mummy, I did something bad today.*

Mother: *Lisa, you mentioned you did something bad today. Can you share with mummy what you did?*

Child: *I hit my friend.*

Mother: *Lisa, you said you hit your friend. Can you tell Mummy why you hit your friend?*

Child: *Because I don't like him.*

Mummy: *Lisa, you said you don't like your friend. Can you tell Mummy why?*

With this "echoing" approach, it **facilitates questioning and communication through empathetic understanding**, helping them to grow psychologically, become more self-aware and change their behaviour willingly.

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Week 6: Social Development

In order for children to grow up with good social skills, they need to start by understanding the different emotions.

- ❖ At birth, infants look to their caregivers to soothe strong emotions and attend to their needs.
- ❖ As babies grow, they begin to learn the complex process of regulating their own emotions.

At the age of 1,

Be sensitive to their needs.

- ❖ Build a sense of security and healthy attachment between child and caregiver by attending to their needs in a timely manner.
- ❖ Spend plenty of one-on-one time with them.

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Week 7: Emotional Development

- ❖ Involves recognising one's own feelings and those of others, and developing **effective ways of managing them**.
- ❖ The first emotions that can be recognised in babies include **joy, anger, sadness and fear**. Later more complex emotions like **shyness, surprise, elation, embarrassment, shame, guilt, pride and empathy** emerge.

Get plenty of “facetime” with your baby.	Expose your baby to different emotions and expressions.
<p>Spend some time engaging your little one. When your baby coos, respond by smiling and talking to him. He/she, in turn, will likely continue the exchange by smiling and cooing some more. This is a sign of healthy emotional development.</p>	<p>Look into a mirror with your baby and express different emotions. You can say “I am so happy. I am happy because I love being here with you!” An alternative is to use puppets or toys and say things like ‘The mouse is sad so the cat will give him a cuddle’.</p>