



Tower Hill Primary School PSLW Rationale

Intent:

At Tower Hill Primary School, we understand that language is critical to learning, cognitive development and literacy and is the primary medium through which teachers teach and children learn within the classroom. Our core vision is that ALL children will be equipped with the skills, knowledge, understanding and empathy that will lead to them being able to make their own choices in life, successfully. We believe pupils in our school should be immersed in a communication friendly Early Years setting where we can develop all areas of Communication and Language. We aim to provide language and vocabulary rich environments that develop communication skills leading to ALL children communicating successfully and using a wide vocabulary. We plan opportunities throughout the school day that identify and support developing communication skills, which include high quality and sensitive adult child interaction that is tailored to each individual child.

Implementation:

In order for our children to develop good communication and language skills, we value our links with our local preschools and nursery settings. The Preschool Link Worker works with these settings throughout the year to build relationships with children who may be joining Tower Hill and identify those that may need extra support. Preschools and nurseries are invited to attend cluster meetings at Tower Hill to discuss good practice and ensure a smooth transition to school.

Using the knowledge from visits to preschools and nurseries and in communication with the Early Years class teachers, the PSLW identifies children who would benefit from extra support and uses interventions such as Language Links, Early Talk Boost and Talk Boost to provide opportunities for children to develop these skills alongside the excellent classroom experiences they already receive. The PSLW keeps thorough records of progress and discusses this data with the Early Years Leader and readjusts the groups as needed.

Other interventions and small groups are provided for children to ensure support is implemented as early as possible. The PSLW meets regularly with the Early Years Leader to discuss the children's progress and plan for future provision.

Impact:

Providing a PSLW means that practitioners from our preschools and nurseries have a point of contact at Tower Hill. This means children are identified early and support can be put in place quickly. It builds good relationships with these settings ensuring a smooth transition. The children have a familiar face when attending Tower Hill for the first time, easing the anxiety of starting school - again ensuring that they are able to access new learning as quickly as possible. Through careful assessments and observations we are able to plan interventions early and, alongside daily provision within the setting ensure that all children make progress in communication and language as well as other areas of the curriculum.

'Speech comes before both reading and writing. The earlier that all children develop confidence in their speech, along with an extensive vocabulary, the more likely it is that they will be able to improve their overall, competence in reading and writing' (Ofsted, 2012).