

School Readiness

What is school readiness?

School readiness is a measure of how prepared a child is to succeed in school cognitively, socially and emotionally. The good level of development (GLD) is used to assess school readiness. Children are defined as having reached a GLD at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage if they achieved at least the expected level in the early learning goals in the prime areas of learning (personal, social and emotional development, physical development and communication and language) and in the specific areas of mathematics and literacy.

The importance of school readiness

School readiness starts at birth with the support of parents and caregivers, when young children acquire the social and emotional skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for success in school and life school readiness at age five has a strong impact on future educational attainment and life chances.

Physical activity for young children is an important component of early brain development and learning Movement skills such as eye skills and manipulative skills help children access curricular activities with enjoyment and success. Communication skills depend on well-developed physical skills and these are all extremely important for our children to support their development.

Communication is the key

A child's communication environment is a dominant feature of early language. Families and educators working together to provide a rich communication environment supports school readiness and key skills and has an impact on:

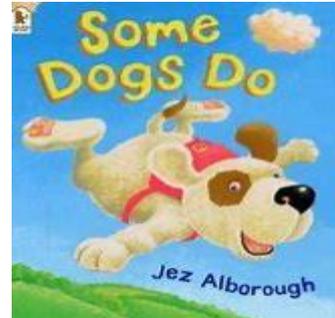
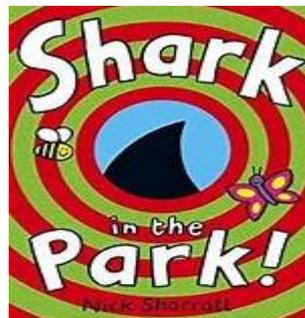
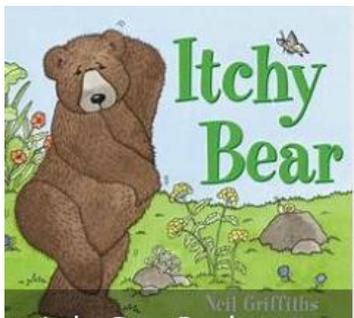
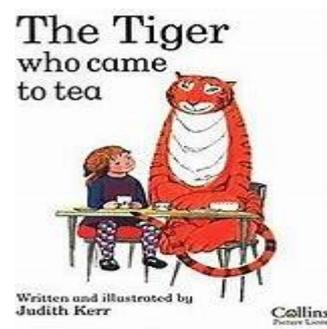
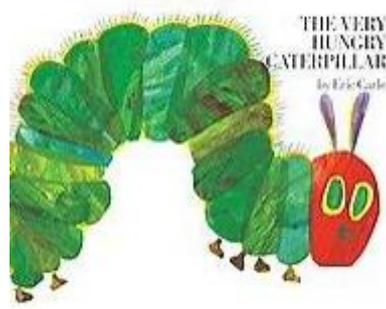
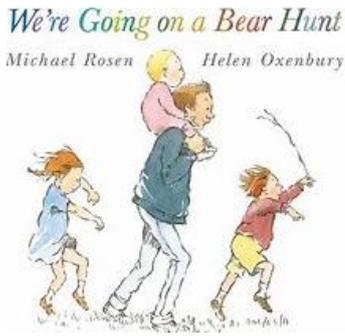
- language development
- vocabulary and mental processing
- emotional development
- attention and behaviour.

Supporting communication development

As part of the Black Country Early Outcomes project, colleagues from Early Education, Speech and Language and Health Visiting have created activity packs for some familiar children's books.

These resources are to support parents and educators with learning. Each leaflet has links to further activities and to online versions of the story, to support those that may not have copies of the books at home.

These activities support children's developing speech, language and communication development and are also lots of fun!



Please explore the activities and access the stories by clicking on books.



The Department for Education in England launched Hungry Little Minds – a three-year campaign that aims to help parents understand that they have a big impact on their child's learning and that reading, playing and chatting with them is a simple thing they can do to help them develop.

The campaign includes social media and online adverts, and a website where parents can access tips and activities and search for activities in their area using a new postcode finder service.

The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) supports the campaign and its aim to encourage parents and carers to adopt positive activities and behaviours to boost children's communication, language and literacy development.

Hungry Little Minds – Simple fun, activities for kids aged 0 – 5

Simple, fun activities for kids, from newborn to five

Many little things light up hungry little minds. Children take everything in, and even the smallest things you do with them can make a big difference.

They love it when you chat, play and read with them, even when you may feel they are too young to understand everything. Whatever the time and wherever you are, you can turn almost anything into a game. Every little thing you do together will help set them up for the day they start school.

Click here for more: <https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk>