

EYFS Progression of Knowledge, Skills and Understanding for Literacy

	Literacy		
	3 years to rising 5s	In Reception	ELG
Communication and Language: Listening & Attention	 Listens to others in one-to-one or small groups, when conversation interests them Listens to familiar stories with increasing attention and recall Joins in with repeated refrains and anticipates key events and phrases in rhymes and stories Focusing attention – can still listen or do, but can change their own focus of attention Is able to follow directions (if not intently focused) 	 Shows variability in listening behaviour; may move around and fiddle but still be listening or sit still but not absorbed by activity May indicate two-channelled attention, e.g. paying attention to something of interest for short or long periods; can both listen and do for short span 	• Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions
Communication & Language: Understanding	 Understands use of objects Shows understanding of prepositions such as under, on top, behind by carrying out an action or selecting correct picture Responds to instructions with more elements Beginning to understand why and how questions 	 Understands a range of complex sentence structures including negatives, plurals and tense markers Beginning to understand humour, e.g. nonsense rhymes, jokes Able to follow a story without pictures or props Listens and responds to ideas expressed by others in conversation or discussion Understands questions such as who; why; when; where and how 	 Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding Hold conversation when engaged in back- and-forth exchanges with their teacher and peers
Communication & Language: Speaking	 Beginning to use more complex sentences to link thoughts 	• Extends vocabulary, especially by grouping and naming, exploring the meaning and sounds of new words	• Participate in small group, class and one- to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary

	Able to use language in recalling past	Uses language to imagine and recreate roles	Offer explanations for why things might
	experiences	and experiences in play situations	happen, making use of recently introduced
	Can retell a simple past event in correct	 Links statements and sticks to a main theme 	vocabulary from stories, non-fiction,
	order	or intention	rhymes and poems when appropriate
	 Uses talk to explain what is happening 	 Uses talk to organise, sequence and clarify 	 Express their ideas and feelings about
	and anticipate what might happen next	thinking, ideas, feelings and events	their experiences using full sentences,
	 Questions why things happen and gives 	 Introduces a storyline or narrative into 	including use of past, present and future
	explanations.	their play	tenses and making use of conjunctions,
	 Beginning to use a range of tenses 		with modelling and support from their
	 Continues to make some errors in 		teacher
	language (e.g. runned) and will absorb		
	and use language they hear around them		
	in their community and culture		
	 Uses intonation, rhythm and phrasing 		
	to make the meaning clear to others		
	• Talks more extensively about things		
	that are of particular importance to them		
	• Builds up vocabulary that reflects the		
	breadth of their experiences		
	• Uses talk in pretending that objects		
	stand for something else in play		
Literacy	• Listens to and joins in with stories	 Enjoys an increasing range of print and 	Word reading:
Reading	and poems, when reading one-to-one	digital books, both fiction and non-fiction	 Say a sound for each letter in the
-	and in small groups	 Uses vocabulary and forms of speech 	alphabet and at least 10 digraphs
	• Joins in with repeated refrains and	that are increasingly influenced by their	• Read words consistent with their phonic
	anticipates key events and phrases in	experiences of reading	knowledge by sound blending
	rhymes and stories	• Describes main story settings, events	• Read aloud simple sentences and books
	 Begins to be aware of the way 	and principal characters in increasing	that are consistent with their phonic
	stories are structured, and to tell own	detail	knowledge, including some common
	stories	 Re-enacts and reinvents stories they 	exception words
	 Talks about events and principal 	have heard in their play	Comprehension:
	characters in stories and suggests	• Knows that information can be retrieved	• Demonstrate understanding of what has
	how the story might end	from books, computers and mobile digital	been read to them by retelling stories and
	 Shows interest in illustrations and 	devices	narratives using their own words and
	words in print and digital books and	 Is able to recall and discuss stories or 	recently introduced vocabulary
	words in the environment	information that has been read to them,	 Anticipate – where appropriate – key
		or they have read themselves	events in stories;

 Recognises familiar words and signs such as own name, advertising logos and screen icons Looks at and enjoys print and digital books independently Knows that print carries meaning and, in English, is read from left to right and top to bottom Knows information can be relayed through signs and symbols in various forms Handles books and touch screen 	about
 logos and screen icons Looks at and enjoys print and digital books independently Knows that print carries meaning and, in English, is read from left to right and top to bottom Knows information can be relayed through signs and symbols in various forms Begins to develop phonological and phonemic awareness Begins to read some high frequency words, and to use developing knowledge of letters and sounds to read simple phonically decodable words and simple sentences Engages with books and other reading materials at an increasingly deeper level, 	
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Handles books and touch screen sometimes drawing on their phonic	
technology carefully and the correct knowledge to decode words, and their	
way up with growing competence knowledge of language structure, subject	
Begins to navigate apps and knowledge and illustrations to interpret	
websites on digital media using drop the text	
down menu to select websites and Includes everyday literacy artefacts in	
icons to select apps play	
Begins to develop phonological and	
phonemic awareness	
Literacy • Makes up stories, play scenarios, • Enjoys creating texts to communicate • Write recognisable letters, r	nost of which
Writing and drawings in response to meaning for an increasingly wide range of are correctly formed	
experiences, such as outings purposes, such as making greetings cards, • Spell words by identifying s	ounds in
Sometimes gives meaning to their tickets, lists, invitations and creating their them and representing the so	unds with a
drawings and paintings own stories and books with images and letter or letters	
Ascribes meanings to signs, symbols sometimes with words, in print and digital Write simple phrases and see	ntences that
and words that they see in different formats can be read by others	
places, including those they make • Gives meaning to the marks they make	
themselves as they draw, write, paint and type using a	
Includes mark making and early keyboard or touch-screen technology	
writing in their play • Begins to break the flow of speech into	
• Imitates adults' writing by making words, to hear and say the initial sound in	
continuous lines of shapes and words and may start to segment the	
symbols (early writing) from left to sounds in words and blend them together	
right • Starts to develop phonic knowledge by	
Attempts to write their own name, linking sounds to letters, naming and	
or other names and words, using sounding some of the letters of the	
alphabet, identifying letters and writing	

	 combinations of lines, circles and curves, or letter-type shapes Shows interest in letters on a keyboard, identifying the initial letter of their own name and other familiar words Begins to make letter-type shapes to represent the initial sound of their name and other familiar words 	recognisable letters in sequence, such as in their own name • Uses their developing phonic knowledge to write things such as label	
Physical Development	 Uses simple tools to effect changes to materials Handles tools, objects, construction and malleable materials safely and with increasing control and intention Shows a preference for a dominant hand Begins to use anticlockwise movement and retrace vertical lines Begins to form recognisable letters independently Uses a pencil and holds it effectively to form recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed 		• Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases; - Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paint brushes and cutlery; - Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing.