

The ShREC Approach

Supporting children to become better communicators is one of the most powerful things we do as early years educators. Oral language skills are fundamental to children's learning, thinking and emotional wellbeing. Children who can communicate well can make friends, play, resolve conflicts and tell us how they are feeling.

The evidence tells us that we should prioritise the development of children's communication and language through socially meaningful interactions. Children thrive on conversation and discussion with people they have a strong relationship with, focused on things they want to talk about.

High quality interactions often look effortless, but they are not easy to do well. To help our Staff at Preschool we are now going to follow the ShREC approach. This provides us with a simple and memorable set of specific, evidence-informed strategies which we can embed into everyday practice. We can use these strategies with every child, every day.

- **Sh: Share attention** – be at the child's level. Pay close attention to what they are focused on.
- **R: Respond** – follow the child's lead. Respond to their non-verbal and verbal communication. You could make a brief comment on what they can see, hear or feel.
- **E: Expand** – repeat what the child says and build on it by adding more words to turn it into a sentence.
- **C: Conversation** – have extended back and forth interactions. Give children time to listen, process and reply.

These strategies encourage us to become more responsive and attuned to children. They encourage children's active participation in meaningful, stimulating, and linguistically rich back and forth conversations.

The ShREC approach supports the 'Preparing for Literacy Guidance Report' by the Education Endowment Foundation. The Guidance Report offers recommendations to provide children with high

quality and well-rounded grounding in Early Literacy, Language and Communication. At Little Bo Peep Preschool, we understand and value the importance of High-quality communication between staff and children in our setting. We aim to provide resources and opportunities for the children to be able to express themselves using Language. Our planning is carefully devised to allow children the freedom to explore and enhance their knowledge of language, we do this by creating a language rich environment and having the skills to be able to extend the tools they need for Communication, Language and Literacy.

A useful short video can be found on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJSfZRtUMXk

Below is a Diagram of The ShREC Approach

HIGH QUALITY INTERACTIONS IN THE EARLY YEARS The 'ShREC' approach



The aim of the ShREC approach is to provide early years professionals with a simple, memorable set of specific evidence informed strategies that can be embedded into everyday practice.

"When done well, high quality interactions often look effortless but they are not easy to do well."

EEF Guidance Report,
Preparing for Literacy



This resource supports the 'Preparing for Literacy' guidance report.

