



English - Spoken Language



This progression map outlines the expected development of spoken language skills from the Early Years Foundation Stage through Year 6, ensuring a comprehensive and coherent approach to building students' abilities in listening, speaking, and engaging in meaningful conversations across a range of contexts.

EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage)

ELG: Listening, Attention, and Understanding

- **Listening and Responding:**
 - Listen attentively during stories, whole class discussions, and small group interactions.
 - Respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments, and actions.
- **Understanding and Clarifying:**
 - Make comments about what they have heard.
 - Ask questions to clarify their understanding.
- **Conversational Skills:**
 - Engage in back-and-forth exchanges with teachers and peers.
 - Hold simple conversations, taking turns and responding appropriately.

ELG: Speaking

- **Participating in Discussions:**
 - Participate in small group, class, and one-to-one discussions.
 - Offer their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary.
- **Explanations and Reasoning:**
 - Offer explanations for why things might happen, using vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes, and poems.
- **Expressing Ideas and Feelings:**
 - Express ideas and feelings about their experiences using full sentences.
 - Use past, present, and future tenses appropriately, with teacher support.
 - Begin to use conjunctions to link thoughts and ideas.

Year 1

Listening and Responding:

- Listen carefully to others and respond appropriately during discussions and conversations.
- Begin to ask relevant questions to deepen understanding.
- Follow simple instructions and contribute to discussions by responding to comments and questions.

Speaking and Expressing Ideas:

- Use newly learned vocabulary to articulate thoughts and ideas.
- Give simple descriptions and explanations, using full sentences.
- Begin to articulate reasons for their opinions or choices.

Conversational Skills:

- Participate in short discussions, taking turns and staying on topic.
- Engage in simple role play and group discussions, expressing ideas clearly.
- Begin to understand and use polite conversational norms (e.g., saying please and thank you, taking turns).

Year 2**Listening and Responding:**

- Listen attentively and respond to contributions from peers and adults with relevant comments or questions.
- Ask questions to clarify understanding or gain more information.
- Follow more complex instructions and discussions.

Speaking and Expressing Ideas:

- Use a wider range of vocabulary to articulate ideas and describe events.
- Provide more detailed descriptions and explanations, using a growing vocabulary.
- Begin to structure answers or narratives logically.

Conversational Skills:

- Participate more actively in discussions, staying on topic and responding to others' ideas.
- Engage in role play and simple debates, offering clear opinions and reasons.
- Begin to consider different viewpoints in discussions.

Year 3**Listening and Responding:**

- Listen carefully to a variety of speakers, responding with relevant questions and comments.
- Ask more complex questions to extend understanding.
- Demonstrate understanding by summarizing key points of what they have heard.

Speaking and Expressing Ideas:

- Articulate and justify answers and opinions using appropriate vocabulary.
- Provide well-structured descriptions and explanations for different purposes.
- Use conjunctions and varied sentence structures to enhance spoken language.

Conversational Skills:

- Maintain attention in group discussions, contributing relevant ideas.
- Participate in role play, presentations, and debates, demonstrating an understanding of the topic.

- Begin to build on others' contributions during discussions.

Year 4

Listening and Responding:

- Listen to a variety of speakers, showing understanding through relevant responses and questions.
- Extend and deepen understanding by asking thoughtful questions.
- Summarize the main points from discussions or presentations.

Speaking and Expressing Ideas:

- Provide detailed and well-structured explanations and narratives.
- Use an expanding vocabulary to express ideas clearly and with increasing sophistication.
- Begin to use language to speculate, hypothesize, and explore ideas.

Conversational Skills:

- Participate in discussions and debates, staying on topic and building on others' ideas.
- Engage in role play and presentations, using appropriate tone, volume, and language.
- Consider and evaluate different viewpoints in group discussions.

Year 5

Listening and Responding:

- Listen critically to a variety of speakers, offering relevant and constructive responses.
- Ask probing questions to explore ideas and extend understanding.
- Summarize and synthesize information from discussions or presentations.

Speaking and Expressing Ideas:

- Articulate and justify complex ideas, arguments, and opinions using advanced vocabulary.
- Provide well-organized descriptions, explanations, and narratives for a range of purposes.
- Use spoken language to explore abstract concepts and engage in speculative thinking.

Conversational Skills:

- Participate confidently in discussions, presentations, and debates, contributing and building on others' ideas.
 - Engage in role play and performances, using language effectively to engage and inform the audience.
 - Evaluate and consider different perspectives in discussions, contributing thoughtfully to group conversations.
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Listening and Responding:

- Listen attentively and critically to a wide range of speakers, providing relevant feedback.
- Ask insightful questions to deepen understanding and challenge ideas.
- Summarize, synthesize, and evaluate the main points from discussions and presentations.

Speaking and Expressing Ideas:

- Articulate complex ideas, arguments, and opinions clearly and persuasively.
- Provide well-structured, detailed explanations and narratives tailored to different audiences and purposes.
- Use spoken language to explore and discuss abstract concepts, hypothesize, and speculate on outcomes.

Conversational Skills:

- Participate effectively in formal and informal discussions, presentations, and debates.
- Engage in role play and performances with confidence, using appropriate language, tone, and register.
- Evaluate different viewpoints critically, contributing to discussions with reasoned arguments and justifications.