

Language comprehension in Reception and Key Stage 1

(Reading Framework Section 2
Language Comprehension)

Key messages from the Reading Framework

- Getting talk right in Reception and Key Stage 1 through a language-rich environment where pupils take part in conversations and discussions.
- Vocabulary underpins learning and back-and-forth talk should be encouraged e.g., by thinking out loud, modelling new language for children, validating the children's attempts at using new vocabulary, and providing models of accurate grammar.
- Children need to be taught when to listen and know what good listening looks like. Teachers should help them to articulate their ideas into well-formed sentences (through scaffolding, extending and developing their ideas).
- Storytimes and choosing the right books should be prioritised. The challenge is to make sure that the right books support all children to thrive, whatever their background. Teachers need to choose those that will engage them emotionally.
- Poetry, stories and non-fiction should be chosen carefully. Schools should consider book corners as mini libraries and focus on selecting and promoting interesting books. Every book should be worth reading aloud – consider 30 to 40 books and at the start of the academic year, include 20 of the children's favourites from the previous year.
- Teachers need to develop listening skills over time, deliberately building up the time that the children listen with attention and concentration. Children also benefit hugely from listening to family members reading aloud to them.
- For children who have speech language and communication needs (SLC), the above strategies should be even more focused.

How we can help



- Bug Club Shared has a structured, systematic approach to vocabulary progression and beautifully illustrated books which introduce children to rich and challenging words from across the curriculum.
- It inspires children to become confident speakers and fluent readers as they explore cross-curricular subjects and share stories with their class.



- The Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) is an integrated programme, for 4–5-year-olds, that is proven to improve language and behaviour. It includes both an intervention and whole class offer.



- Reading Corner is a library of books for Reception to Year 6 on exciting topics to encourage and motivate children to read for pleasure.
- It is also ideal for children to read aloud to themselves.
- The books are written by a range of diverse authors and illustrators, and feature exciting, representative characters who live in all sorts of places and go on all sorts of adventures.



Find out more about Bug Club at
pearsonprimary.co.uk/readingframework

Find out more about NELI at pearsonprimary.co.uk/NELI