



Vocabulary Progression in the EYFS 2024-2025

We believe in the importance of children hearing a diverse vocabulary in a language rich, communication supporting environment. We therefore model and demonstrate talk that exposes children to a breadth of quality vocabulary in context. This progression document shows our identified key Tier 2 and 3 vocabulary which is explicitly taught and modelled to the children, to become acquired and embedded over time.

In our wider school Curriculum Progression Documents, such as those for curriculum subjects like Geography and History, any EYFS identified vocabulary has been chosen from this document. This allows us to be specific about our key vocabulary for our youngest learners, creates opportunities for repeated use and coverage within different subject contexts and helps to reduce cognitive load.

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Communication & Language			
	Tell, explain, listen, word.	Question, answer, sentence.	Retell, conversation, discuss.
Personal, Social & Emotional Development			
	Share, choice, feelings, different, kindness, teamwork, together, partner.	Care, aim, goal, proud, encourage, support, responsibility, private, comfortable/uncomfortable.	Respect, unique, achieve, belong, independently, consent, persevere, behaviour.
Physical Development			
	Direction, travel, chase, space, balance, speed, team.	Obstacle, apparatus, land, perform, opposite, stretch.	Sequence, negotiate, control, co-ordination, stamina, distance, opponent, possession.
Literacy			
	Say the sounds, read the word, word, sounds, spell, finger space, story, story map, poem, blurb.	Two letters one sound, capital letter, full stop, sentence, label, author, illustrator, spine, title, character.	First, (un)fortunately, suddenly, finally, predict, same sound different spelling, same spelling different sound, fiction, non-fiction.
Mathematics			
Number	0-5, more, less, order, count, group, ten frame, the same.	Subitise, few/er/est, altogether, add, plus, takeaway, equals, compare, number sentence, number bond.	Subtract, minus, double, half, share, equal, even, odd, total, estimate, part, whole.
Shape, Space & Measure	Same, similar, different, pattern. 2D shape names (square, triangle, circle, rectangle, diamond), sides, corners. Measure, scales, weigh, heavy/light, long/short/tall, balance. Day/night, penny, pence.	2D, 3D, 3D shape names (pyramid, cone, cube, cuboid, cylinder, sphere), solid, face, edges, vertices. Smaller/est, longer/est, taller/est, heavier/lighter, greater, capacity, container. Days of the week, coin, note.	O'clock, time, months of the year, change (money).

Understanding the World			
Natural World	Freeze, frozen, melt, ice, change. More specific names for animal young (e.g. lamb, calf). Names for a wider variety of animals (e.g. common bird types). Trunk. Autumn, Winter, colder, frost, weather. Hose, village, map, place, world, ocean, land.	Metal, plastic, float, sink, magnetic. Habitat, minibeast, creature, living thing. Seed, branch, petal, blossom. Season, Spring, hotter/warmer, foggy, misty, cloudy. Melton, town, city, direction, globe, country.	Waterproof, camouflage, electricity. More specific names for animal parts: hooves, paws, fins, gills, snout, wings, feathers, claws, fur. Roots, shoots, buds, stem. Nocturnal. Summer, brighter. The United Kingdom, compass, local area, community, atlas, continent.
Past & Present	Before, after, today, yesterday, different, the same, travel, Autumn, Winter.	A long time ago, old, new, change, transport, Spring.	Past, present, future, extinct, Summer, season.
People, Culture & Communities	Pet, family, parents, grandparents, work. Church, Christian, Jesus, God, celebrate, Harvest, prayer, nativity (Mary, Joseph, stable, manger, Bethlehem).	Differences, people and their specific job titles (e.g. fire service, police officer). Religion, Muslim, Quran, prayer mat, Chinese New Year, bible, belief.	Occupation, humans, characteristics. Sacred, beliefs, steeple, font, alter, pew, christening.
Enquiry Skills	Ask, find out, look, watch, listen.	Question, answer, observe, share, tell us.	Discover, research, present, explain.
Expressive Arts & Design			
Design	Cut, plan, design, thick/thin, stapler, hole punch.	Snip, evaluate, create, thread, more specific colour names (e.g. turquoise, lilac), print, diagonal.	Shape, weave, detail, improve, experiment, edit, sculpt, primary/secondary colour.
Construct	Build, tall, short, long, strong, join.	Stack, turn, balance, higher/lower, position.	Connect, join, platform, raised, angle, stable.
Perform	Tap, perform, sound, play, stop, audience.	Rhyme, practise, beginning, middle, end, pause.	Tune, rhythm, volume, pulse, lyrics, repeat.
Cook	Clean, germs, cook, bake, mix, snack, stir.	Healthy, cut, recipe, ingredients.	Hygiene, prepare, order, estimate, measure.