



2026

Communication and Language

—

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Aim for the meeting

Exploring strategies to effectively support your child in their communication and building their language.
Practical ideas for assisting your child at home.

Academic Attainment & Employability

Language at 5 predicts future success:

- More influential on reading at 11 than behavior, friendships, or emotional wellbeing.
- Poor language at 5:
- 4x more likely to struggle with **Reading** at 11
- 6x more likely to fall behind in **English** at 11
- 11x more likely to fall behind in **Maths** at 11

Importance of Communication & Language

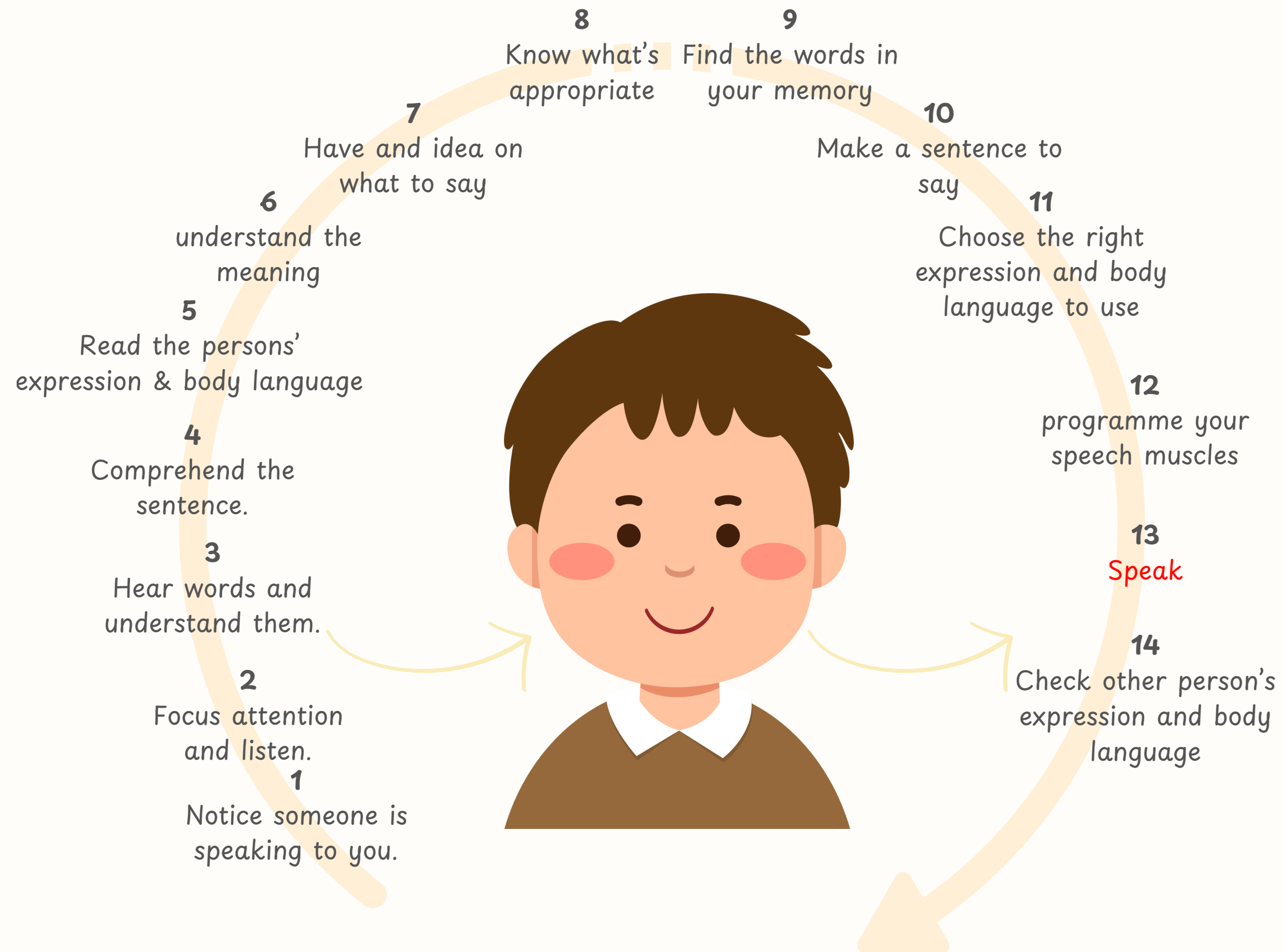
Speech, language, and communication are critical areas of development for children. They play a vital role throughout our lives, helping us to understand what is going on around us, communicate our basic needs and feelings, hold conversations, think and learn, develop relationships, solve problems, and more. They also support many other aspects of development, including cognitive, social, and literacy development.



Processing Skills



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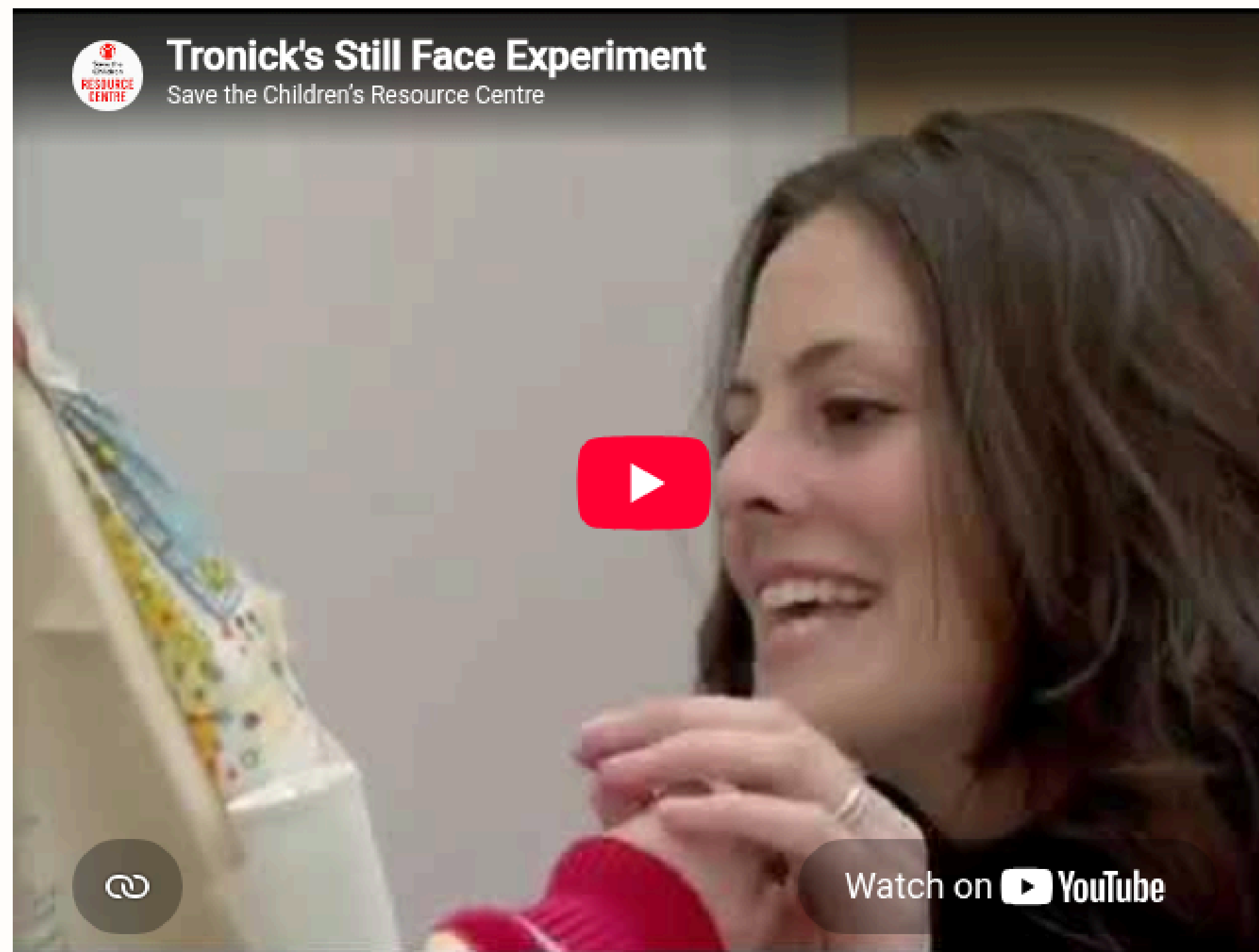


Verbal Expression over Gestures

From birth, babies want to connect with others and are eager to interact. For example, they might kick their legs ready to play a peekaboo game. These are important parts of an interaction that adults should notice and encourage.

Being with others helps children to build social relationships which provide opportunities for friendship, empathy and sharing emotions.





S&L Development

It is never too early to begin encouraging language development. Parents and early years practitioners should offer children speaking and listening opportunities through everyday conversation and practical activities.

Children often learn best by observing and copying adult behaviour so adults should model good speech and language skills whenever possible.

Good Practice

- Getting the child's attention and making eye contact
- Speaking clearly and calmly
- Use gesture, tone of voice and facial expressions
- Using age-appropriate, simple language
- Describing and commenting on what is happening and what the child is doing
- Commenting on what is happening and what the child is doing
- Give children time to respond and find their words
- Use effective questioning – not too much and not asking too many closed questions
- Create opportunities for them to use all their senses

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How to help at Home

- Read books everyday
- Play describing and guessing games
- Talk about their school day
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes
- Play board games
- Play role- play games
- Go on visits/days out
- Turn off music, radio or TV so children can focus on speaking and listening

If you are concerned...

Some children find talking and listening harder than others. They might find it hard to understand what words and sentences mean. Some struggle to find the right words and sounds to use and put them in order. These children may need extra help.

- If you are worried about your child, talk to your child's teacher and Mrs Mills.
- Every child is screened for Welcomm.

Join these apps

https://anton.app/en_gb/

The Anton App is a free, interactive learning platform designed for young learners. It covers a wide range of subjects including math, reading, and science through engaging games and activities. The app adapts to each child's learning pace, providing personalized lessons and instant feedback. Ideal for children in Reception, Anton helps develop essential skills while keeping kids motivated and entertained.



<https://startingreception.co.uk/>

The Starting Reception website offers practical tips and activities to help prepare your child for school. It covers key skills like literacy, numeracy, and social development, ensuring a smooth transition into Reception.





Thank you for Attending

Upcoming Workshops

Wednesday 16th: Phonics and Reading