



Registered Charity No: 1130840
School Mead, Abbots Langley, WD5 0LB
01923 274483

January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

At preschool we have in place a speech and language monitoring tool called Wellcomm. It was developed by Speech and Language therapists to enable early years practitioners to assess the communication and language development of children and put in place strategies to support children with their expressive and receptive language.

As part of a Government literacy initiative, our role is to support your child's development in this area and how effective the activities we provide are. By using the activities within the Wellcomm pack, it helps us to ensure that the children are developing confidently in their communication and language and that our planning supports them appropriately in this area.

Not all children will be assessed. If their Key Person feels the need or the parent has raised concerns, the SENCos will assess these children along with those that are on the SEN register and any other children we feel would benefit from an assessment.

If you would like further information, please contact Lyn, Charlotte or Carrie.

Many thanks.

Wellcomm at Breakspeare Community Preschool

What is Wellcomm?

Wellcomm is a speech and language toolkit for children aged 6 months to 6 years. Designed by Speech and Language therapists, it helps practitioners to understand children's current level of speech and language, highlights specific areas that the child might need some support and provides targeted activities to help support those areas.

Children learn language in a specific order, a bit like physical development, you can't walk until you can sit up, language development has similar milestones. Our job is to make sure that your child leaves us equipped as well as possible for the next stage of their education and sometimes we use tools like Wellcomm to make sure that no milestones have been missed and that we are supporting each child to the best of our ability.

How does it work?

A child will be assessed, using a range of fun and play-based activities against the language development level for their age. We assess all children in their Nursery Year and any children we feel may benefit from some additional speech and language input, parents have raised concerns or any child on the SEN register. We also assess to ensure that our planning is set at an appropriate level for the cohort. For example, in previous years we have discovered that we needed to do some more work on 'in' and 'under' and using 'I'm putting my coat on' rather than 'Alix is putting her coat on' and then this can be built in and planned for through leaf group or everyday activities.

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A child will be assessed for around 10-15 minutes on their understanding of what is being said to them (receptive language) and how they communicate verbally (expressive language). Some of the assessment is completed through directed practical activities and through our everyday observations. The needs of the child are taken into consideration and the toolkit may be completed over several stages.

How will Breakspeare Community Preschool let me know about the child?

At Breakspeare Community Preschool we will use our observations and the children's profiles to closely monitor the children. If the keyworkers feel that a child might benefit from some support with certain concepts, we would ask if you are happy for us to carry out a Wellcomm assessment. This will be completed by the SENCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) and the outcomes fed back to you, the parents/carers. Together we will use the suggested easy and practical activities to support their development. Their progress will continue to be monitored and support adjusted as appropriate.

If you would like further information please click on the link below or speak to the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator's Carrie Peppett and Charlotte Clempson.

<https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/wellcomm/>

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