

# Quality Communication in Early Years Education

Supporting Learning Through Play-Based Approaches

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# Main Objective of The Workshop

To enhance our understanding and practice of quality communication in early years settings, through discussion and activities:

- Support children's learning through meaningful interactions
- Foster deeper thinking and language development
- Create emotionally safe environments where children thrive
- Model respectful communication



# The Power of Play-Based Learning



## Exploration & Discovery

Play creates the context for exploration and discovery



## Hands-On Learning

Children learn best through hands-on experiences



## Deeper Understanding

Adult interaction transforms play into deeper learning





**What a play based classroom looks like**

# Communication Rich Activities

## Storytelling and Discussion

Children retell stories, answer questions, and share ideas.

## Role-Play

Children engage in conversations while acting out different roles.

## Circle Time Conversations

Group discussions about experiences or daily events.





# Fixed vs Growth Mindset

## Fixed Mindset:

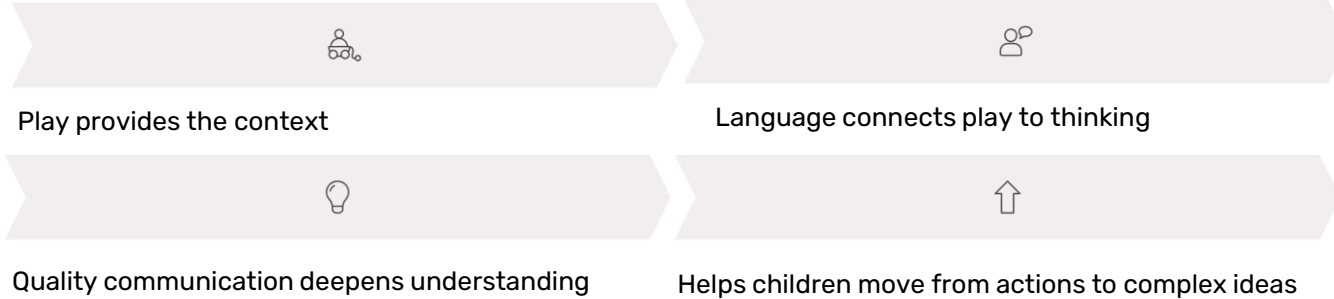
- "I can't do this"
- Avoids challenges
- Gives up easily
- Sees effort as fruitless
- Ignores feedback
- Feels threatened by others' success

## Growth Mindset:

- "I can't do this yet"
- Embraces challenges
- Persists through setbacks
- Sees effort as path to mastery
- Learns from feedback
- Finds inspiration in others' success

# Language as a Bridge

## Communication: Words and Beyond



## Non-Verbal Communication Matters

- **Touch: Gentle, reassuring, respectful**
- **Tone of voice: Warm, calm, encouraging**
- Body language: Eye level, open posture
- Facial expressions: Genuine smiles, interest, empathy

## Children Are Always Watching

- How we speak to colleagues and TAs
- The respect we model in all relationships
- We teach communication through our example

# Asking Questions & Honouring Children's Voices

## Closed Questions:

- "Is that a house?"
- "What colour is this?"
- Limited responses

## Open Questions:

- "Tell me about what you're building"
- "What made you choose those colours?"
- Encourages thinking and expression

## The Meaning Belongs to the Child

- Avoid making assumptions about children's
- Ask curious questions instead of labelling
- Let children explain their thinking
- Honour their perspective and creativity



# Creating Communication for Connection

Strategies for meaningful connection: Let's Discuss!



## Choices

- Offer meaningful choices
- Empower voices in learning, decisions, and routines
- Value their input through observation



## Clear, simple language

Use age-appropriate words and short sentences.



## Active listening

Give full attention and respond thoughtfully.  
When children feel heard, stress drops, opening them to communication and learning.



## Narrate emotions

Help children identify and express feelings.  
Emotional safety enhances listening and learning.



## Visual and physical cues

Use gestures, facial expressions, and body language, as 80% of communication is non-verbal.

# Our Role as Facilitators



Observe and listen  
carefully



Ask questions that  
extend thinking



Support children's  
exploration



Model language and  
vocabulary



Create rich learning opportunities



# Key Takeaways

Quality communication transforms play into powerful learning

Open questions invite deeper thinking

The meaning belongs to the child

We are facilitators, not directors

Growth mindset benefits both educators and children

Every interaction is an opportunity to support development

## BPS in Action/ Q&A





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