

How can children learn about languages in Early Years?

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum supports children to develop an early awareness of other languages and cultures, fostering curiosity, respect and enjoyment of communication beyond their home language. Children are introduced to new words and phrases through songs, rhymes, games, stories and simple conversations, helping them to experience the sounds and patterns of another language in a playful and engaging way. Everyday routines, greetings and classroom activities are used as opportunities to practise simple vocabulary, giving children the confidence to listen, repeat and respond. Exposure to different languages in stories, role play and cultural celebrations helps children to appreciate diversity and recognise that people around the world communicate in different ways. This foundation supports children to become confident, curious and open-minded learners, ready to build on their language skills as they move through school.

Links to Development Matters: Three and Four Year Olds

Communication and language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop their communication • Start a conversation with an adult or a friend and continue it for many turns
Developing social,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become more outgoing with unfamiliar people, in the safe context of their setting • Show more confidence in new social situations
Understanding the world	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue developing positive attitudes about the differences between people • Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos

Key Vocabulary

abroad, UK, Wales, Spain, America

End Points

- Understand there are different countries in the world

Links to Development Matters: Reception

Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand how to listen carefully and why listening is important• Learn new vocabulary• Develop social phrases• Listen to rhymes and songs• Learn rhymes and songs
Developing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build constructive and respectful relationships
Understanding the world	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talk about members of their immediate family and community• Name and describe people who are familiar to them• Draw information from a simple map• Recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries.

Early Learning Goals

Communication and language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchanges with their teacher and peers
Understanding the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps• Know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class• Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and – when appropriate – maps

Key Vocabulary

Hello, Good morning, How are you?, tourist, visit, travel, aborad, UK, England, Spain, America
Children also learn how to say 'Hello' in a variety of foreign languages.

End Points

- Know where they live and can name five landmarks in the area they live.
- Identify a city, a countryside village and a seaside town.
- Identify three other countries in the world.
- Say 'Hello' in another language