

Definition: **Language development** is the process by which children come to understand and communicate **language during early childhood**.

### **Speech ...**

- the ability to articulate speech sounds
- the ability to use sounds and words in sentences
- the ability to speak with expression by using a clear voice, correct volume, intonation, pitch to support meaning

### **Language – talking and understanding ...**

- how words are made, added to or changed
- what these words mean (vocabulary and semantics)
- How words are joined together such as word order, telling stories, participating in conversations.

NB you don't have to be able to speak to have good language skills.

### **Communication – How do we interact with others?...**

- good listening and attention
- looking at people when in conversation
- turn taking
- knowing how to change your language to suit the situation
- the ability to take on other peoples points of view, intentions.
- understanding about proximity and personal space
- reading facial expressions and body language