

Nursery English Non Negotiable Skills

Communication & Language: Listening and Attention	
Skill	Example
Sequence three pictures from a story they have listened to.	E.g. After listening to a story the child is able to use picture cards to sequence the beginning, middle and end.
Orally retell the key events from a story	E.g. Goldilocks finds a cottage and she ate all the porridge. The bears come home and find Goldilocks in bed. Goldilocks runs away.
Answer simple questions based on what has been read to them.	E.g. What was the name of the dog? Where did the bear live?
Listen to other children in conversations or discussions.	E.g. I went to Jungle Fun too. Did you go in the ball pit?
Listen in a range of situations.	E.g. whole class, small group and 1:1
Sit and attend an activity for five minutes.	E.g. Sitting quietly for a whole class or maintain interest in a group activity during child initiated play.
Respond to stories	E.g. facial expressions, comments, joins in with repetitive phrases
Communication & Language: Understanding	
Skill	Example
Understanding language at four key level	E.g. Point to the bird flying over the tree .
Listen and follow two part instructions	E.g. Put your coat on and then stand in line. Point to the dog and then the tree.
Able to follow a short story without pictures or props.	E.g. Why did the dog go to the park? How do you think the dog felt?

Can make plausible predictions based on what has been read to them.	E.g. The child is shown a picture of a plant growing and is asked what might happen next and they predict the plant will flower, grow, die etc
Communication & Language: Speaking	
Skill	Example
Can use range of vocabulary including nouns, verbs and prepositions	See attached word lists and images
Extends vocabulary by grouping and naming	E.g. colours, clothes, animals - see vocab list
Speaks in complete sentences of five or more words.	E.g. The dog is chasing the cat.
Is beginning to use more complex sentences to express reason or causes.	E.g. I want to take this home so my mum can see it.
Asks questions to develop understanding.	E.g. who, what, why, when, how
Can talk about past, present and future events showing an awareness of the sequence of time.	E.g. Yesterday I played with Tom. Today I want to play with Jack.
Uses language in imaginative play.	E.g. This is my castle and I'm the king.
Literacy: Reading	
Skill	Example
Continues a rhyming string	cat, pat, ?
Hears and says the initial sound in words.	E.g. Look at the picture of the sun. What is the first sound you can hear in the word sun?

Can listen to an adult segmenting and the child blends the word.	E.g. adult says f-i-sh and the child recognises it as the word fish
Can begin to recognise phonemes.	E.g. Share a picture of a sun with the word sun on. Cover the 'un' What sound does this letter make?
Handles books carefully.	E.g. Holds the book the correct way up and turn the pages carefully looking from left to right.
Takes an interest in a variety of books.	range of themes
Literacy: Writing	
Skill	Example
Beginning to grip a pencil correctly	See pencil grip stages attached
Able to recognise their name.	E.g. points to their peg and says this is my peg.
Can trace their name	E.g. The child is able to locate their name card and trace over their name. E.g. Isla
Beginning to write their name.	E.g. Teacher to focus on one letter at a time. The teacher uses a yellow highlighter for the child to trace over. The teacher writes the subsequent letters in black pen. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Isla 2. _sla 3. _ _ la 4. _ _ _ a

Can make pre writing shapes	See progression in writing document
Discusses meaning of their marks in a range of contexts.	E.g. drawing, writing and painting
Uses some clearly identifiable letters to communicate meaning representing some sounds correctly.	E.g. able to write the s in sun at the beginning.