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WellComm assessments at Morton Trentside Primary School

Dear Parent/Carer,

During Term 1 (or their first term in preschool if starting mid-year), we will carry out a WellComm assessment on each child in preschool and reception. Communication and language underpins all of the areas of the early years curriculum. Speech, language and communication skills are crucial to young children's overall development. Being able to speak clearly and process speech sounds, to understand others, to express ideas and interact with others are fundamental building blocks for a child's development.

What is WellComm?

WellComm is a complete speech and language toolkit that can be used with children from 6 months to 6 years.

The WellComm system is:

- An approach that works in partnership with parents.
- A means of tracking the ability of all children in the class.
- The opportunity to identify areas of concern in language, communication and interaction development, in order to ensure targeted early intervention.
- An array of resources enabling delivery of focused activities to
 - target those children who have some language difficulties
 - enhance the skills of all children and
 - increase the number of children whose language, communication and interaction development is within the expected range for their age group
- A range of fun, play-based activities to address children's language needs.



How does it work?

Every child is assessed for around 10 – 15 minutes on their understanding of what is being said to them (*receptive language*) and also how they communicate verbally (*expressive language*). This assessment is partly completed through the everyday observations that your child's teacher carries out in class to assess his/her progress throughout the whole of the Early Years curriculum, but also involves few targeted questions such as asking your child to point out various pictures or follow some instructions.

How will we let you know about your child and WellComm?

We expect to find that many children are not falling behind in their language development. If your child is not in need of any support then your child's teacher will be able to reassure you of this.

If we find that your child needs a little extra help then we will inform you which part of their language development they need support with and how we will be doing this at school. We will also be asking you to help your child alongside us by carrying out some easy practical activities at home, which include songs, rhymes, games, and other play activities.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email me laura.mitchell@mortontrentside.lincs.sch.uk or have a chat to your child's key worker or teacher.

Kind Regards

Laura Mitchell

EYFS Teacher





