



Education Endowment Fund Research On Teaching And Modelling Social Communication



What The Research Says About What Works In The Early Years



Key Message

High quality teaching and modelling of social communication helps young children develop the skills they need to connect, communicate and thrive. These skills support relationships, learning and wellbeing – now and in the future.



What Is Social Communication?

It includes talking, listening, understanding others, taking turns, sharing ideas and building relationships.



What Did The EEF Find?

- Effective teaching and modelling makes a positive difference to children's social communication.
- Practitioners who model language, respond to children and extend conversations help children learn best.
- These approaches work especially well for children who need the most support.



What Does This Look Like?

- Talk with children throughout the day
- Model clear, rich language
- Listen and respond positively
- Encourage turn-taking and sharing
- Create lots of opportunities for conversation
- Build warm, trusting relationships



Why Does It Matter?

- Strong social communication supports friendships and inclusion.
- It builds confidence and emotional wellbeing.
- It lays the foundations for learning and life.



How Can Practitioners Use This?

- Be a positive role model every day.
- Use strategies consistently.
- Work together with families to support communication.



Small Interactions, Big Impact

Every conversation, every response and every moment of modelling helps children develop the social communication skills they need to succeed in school and in life.



Want To Read The Full Research?

Explore the EEF EYFS Evidence Tool for more information: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/early-years/evidence-store>