

Creating a Language-Rich Classroom

Easy ways to boost vocabulary and confidence every day

A language-rich classroom is one where children hear, see, and use language all day long - during play, routines, and learning. It's about creating real opportunities to talk and build vocabulary in every part of the school day.

1. Model language every day

Talk out loud about what you're doing ("I'm mixing the paint to make purple"). Use rich vocabulary naturally and repeat new words often to help them stick.

2. Use visuals and labels

Label areas and objects around the room. Use picture cues, visual timetables and visual supports to help children follow routines and build word meaning.

3. Make the most of stories

Read and re-read favourite books. Pause to talk about the pictures, new words, and what might happen next. Encourage children to join in and retell stories in their own words.

4. Ask and comment

Ask open-ended questions like "What are you making?" or "How did you do that?" Make comments too - it models language without pressure to respond.

5. Celebrate all kinds of communication

Words, gestures, signs, or sounds. Respond warmly and add a little more language each time ("Yes, car! A big red car!").

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