

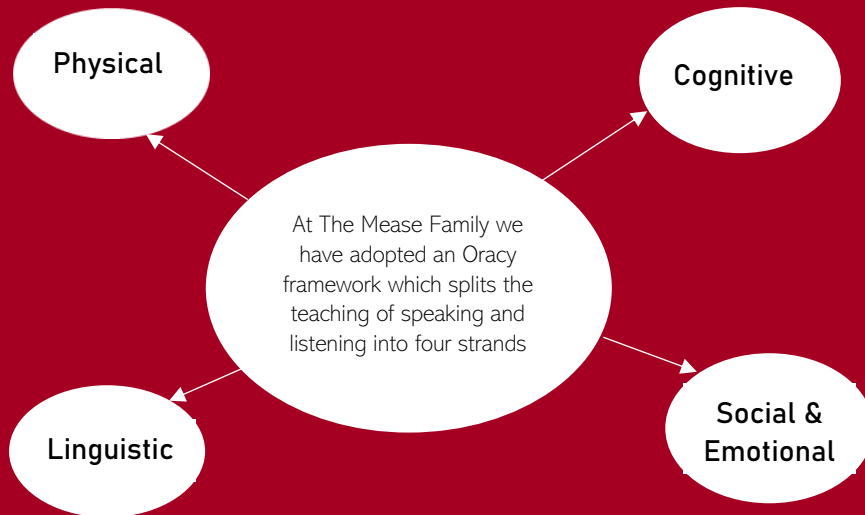


Parents' Guide to Oracy



What is Oracy?

- **Oracy is the ability to express yourself clearly and communicate with others effectively through spoken language.**
- **Thinking carefully about your language choices, tailoring it to a specific purpose and audience.**



**Oracy promotes different speaking styles,
learning to talk and through talk
and how to be an effective and attentive listener.**

Why is Oracy important?

- Communication is a vital skill that children require now and, in their future, lives.
- Good Oracy leads to improved outcomes across the Curriculum.
- It helps children form secure relationships with adults and other children

Oracy at The Mease Family:

- Our lessons are rich in talk, questions are planned, peer conversations are modelled and scaffolded and the teacher uses talk skilfully to develop thinking. Children are given opportunities to develop Oracy skills and build their confidence in talking in formal and informal situations, both in and outside the classroom.
- Children have explicit Oracy lessons where they are taught skills across the strands, using sentence stems to support where necessary. Rich vocabulary is explored and children have the opportunity to discuss, debate and recite themes based on a range of topics.
- Speaking and listening are core fundamentals of our curriculum.

Oracy at home

We know it is essential that children continue to develop their Oracy skills at home and in different contexts outside of school. The most important thing parents can do is to talk with their children and encourage them to think and express themselves. Research shows that children who are able to express themselves and construct an argument are better able to progress in other areas of learning such as reading and writing.

Easy things you can do:

Making eye contact with your child will help your child to focus when you are speaking to them. Body language is so important when talking to your child, as it shows your child that you are interested in what they are saying.

Face your body towards your child to show them you are engaged in the conversation. Expect your child to be polite and model being polite.

Speak to your children the way you want them to speak to you.

Remind your child to say please and thank you.

Encourage your child to speak in full sentences. When your child asks for something, repeat back their request using a full sentence so that you are modelling the language you want them to use.

What else can I do to help? - 7 ways to promote oracy at home:

1. Read aloud to your child

Reading aloud to your child, well beyond the age they can read for themselves, combines the benefits of talking, listening and storytelling within one activity that helps children build their vocabulary, learn to express their thoughts, and understand the structure of language.

2. Record a video diary

Many children aspire to being vloggers or YouTube stars, so encourage them to start a video diary, either to chart their everyday life or to record special occasions like birthdays and holidays. For safety's sake, keep these within the family rather than broadcasting them online.

3. Play word games

Games like 20 Questions, Guess Who? and I Spy are great for helping children use descriptive language and think critically about what they're saying.

4. Talk about their day

Ask your child, 'What did you do today?' and they'll often claim they can't remember, so find different ways to talk about what they've been up to. Eating your evening meal as a family is a good way to encourage conversation, while older kids are often chattier in the car, where they feel less like they're being interrogated. You could also try our tips for asking the right questions to elicit information.

5. Phone a friend (or relative)

Persuade your child to take a break from text and WhatsApp and develop their speaking skills by making an actual phone call. Encouraging them to speak to different family members on the phone or on a video call will build confidence.

6. Go on a nature walk

This is a great pre-phonics activity for young children, who can be encouraged to listen carefully to the sounds they hear – from traffic to birdsong – and describe them. They can also describe the natural sights they see, such as trees, animals and birds and the sky.

7. Sign them up for a club

Joining extracurricular clubs is a good opportunity for your child to converse with different people outside the home or school environment. Many of them also involve taking instructions (such as being coached in sporting techniques or to complete science or art projects), and introduce them to different vocabulary relating to their new hobby.



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