

COOKERY, BOOKS AND PLAY: SUPPORTING COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE



WRITTEN BY DR LUCY PARKER

**DEPUTY HEAD, LUDWICK NURSERY SCHOOL AND
REACH OUT STRONGER PRACTICE HUB PARTNER**

OUR RECENT TRAINING ENTITLED 'COOKERY, BOOKS AND PLAY' EXPLORED HOW COOKERY CAN BE USED AS A STRONG FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT.

WHY COOKERY?

Cookery is an engaging first-hand experience for young children. It provides many opportunities to support communication and language, particularly through high quality interactions and opportunities to develop key vocabulary. Cookery also interconnects to other areas of the curriculum and supports children's play.

When considering how to develop communication and language in your setting, looking at the 'shREC' approach could be a useful starting point.

As Fliss James highlights in her blog on the approach, these simple and memorable strategies can be embedded into everyday practice.

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/news/the-shrec-approach-four-evidence-informed-strategies-to-promote-high-quality-interactions-with-young-children>

COOKERY PROVIDES MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP SHARED ATTENTION, TO RESPOND TO CHILDREN'S COMMUNICATIONS AND EXPAND AND DEVELOP CONVERSATIONS.

Providing children with first hand experiences, positively impacts on their play and connecting learning together makes it meaningful for children. For example, if you've had the experience of making cakes, then you can draw on this in your play.

Observing children closely and creating play opportunities to connect to their interests and learning is important.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE PLACES CHILDREN MIGHT ENGAGE IN IMAGINATIVE AND SYMBOLIC PLAY:



Cracking an egg is a great learning experience which provides many opportunities to support communication and language, for example, following instructions, wondering what's inside the egg, learning new vocabulary such as yolk.



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THE MUD KITCHEN

The mud kitchen is a great area to support imaginative play.

The video at the end of Fliss James' blog (<https://youtu.be/HJSfZrtUMXk>) shows a lovely example of quality interactions at the playdough table and how resources the children are accessing (such as spices and a pestle and mortar) are supporting their language development. Open-ended play experiences, such as playdough, can lead to high quality play, and with well qualified adults, high quality interactions.

Sharing books that link to children's cookery and play experiences adds a further layer to supporting communication and language development.

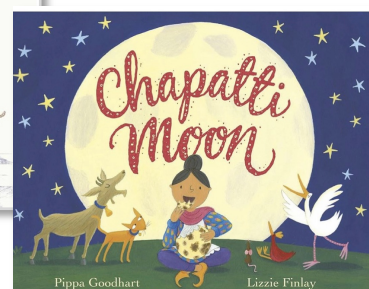
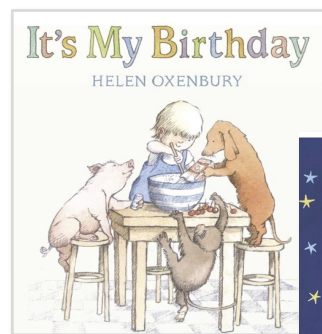
Shared reading and storytelling is an important part of early language development and lays the foundations for future confidence in reading and writing. This is clearly evidenced in the Preparing for Literacy guidance report:

(<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/literacy-early-years>).

Therefore, having high quality books to connect to children's learning is really important.

Finding stories for children to enjoy which make connections to their cookery experience, supports their learning, play and understanding of the world and has a positive impact on their language development.

THE TWO BOOKS BELOW ARE GREAT TEXTS FOR SHARING AND INSPIRING COOKING AND PLAY OPPORTUNITIES.

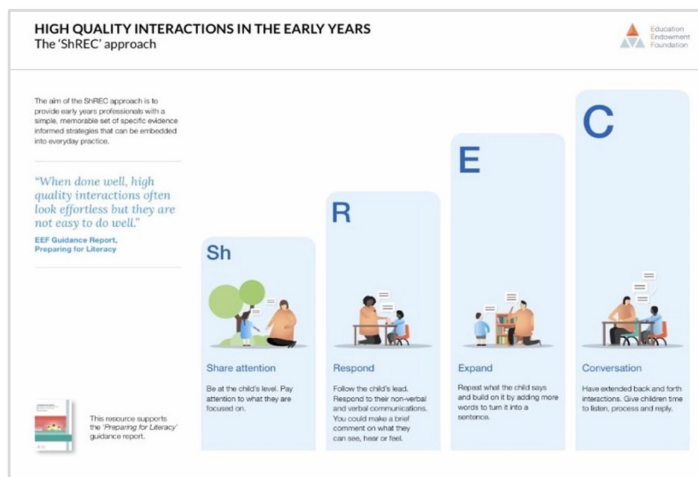


FURTHER READING:

Cooking with Young Children pamphlet: [Click here](#)

Preparing for Literacy Guidance report: [Click here](#)

THE 'SHREC' APPROACH



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PUTTING
EVIDENCE INFORMED APPROACHES
INTO PRACTICE SCAN HERE:

