

Oracy

Parent Information 2026

What is Oracy?

- ▶ Andrew Wilkinson came up with the word Oracy in the 1960s. It means to be able to express yourself clearly and communicate effectively with other people. It is about *how* you speak and *how* you express yourself.
- ▶ It is also about being able to listen and understand what others say to you.
- ▶ Follow the link to watch this [video clip](#) for more information.

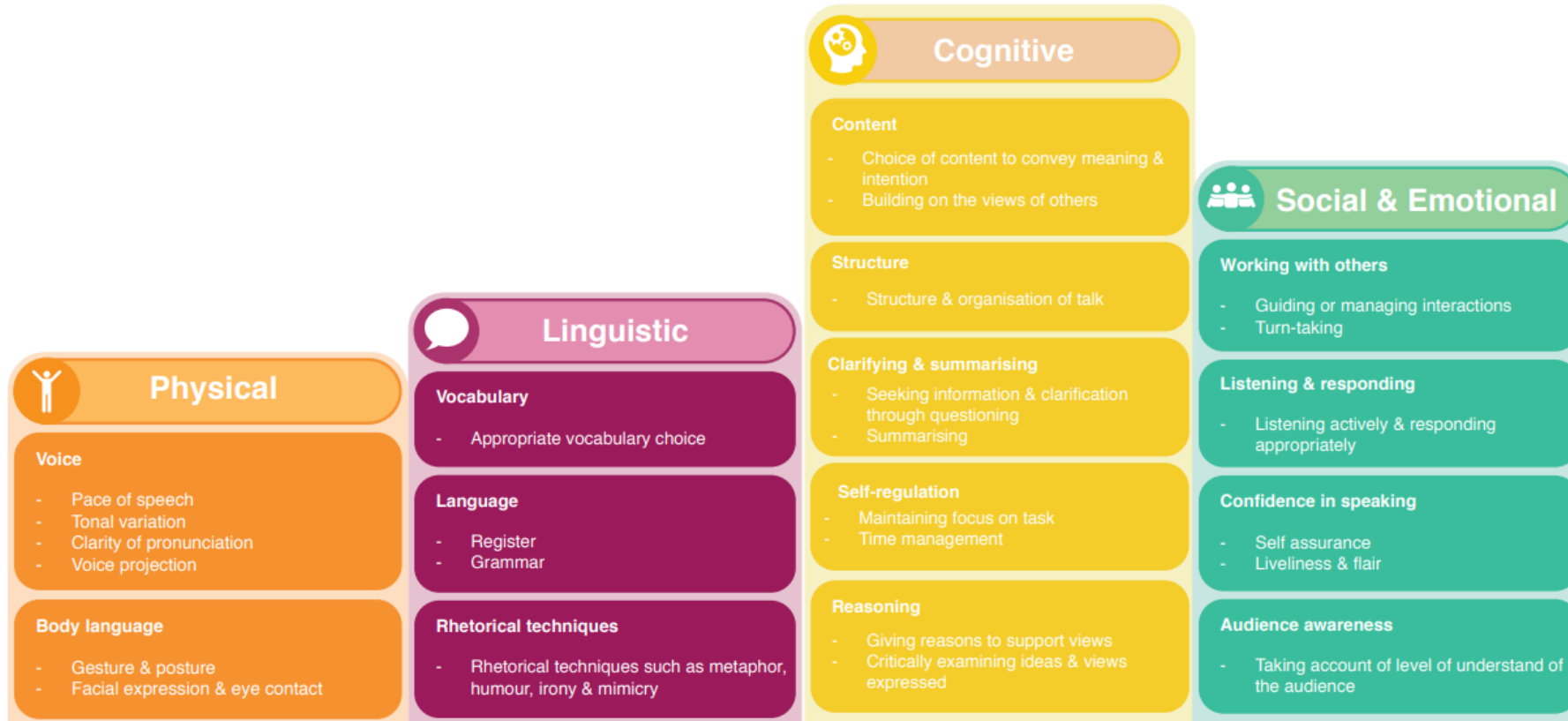


Why does it matter:

- ▶ Children with language difficulties (poor oracy) at age 5 are four times more likely to have reading difficulties as adults.
- ▶ They are three times as likely to have mental health problems.
- ▶ They are twice as likely to be unemployed.

In school we use the Oracy Framework

This divides Oracy into 4 categories:



The Oracy Framework was developed in partnership with Oracy Cambridge.

We give the children lots of opportunities to practice their Oracy skills. Here are a few examples:

Hot seating

Talk Partners

On the playground

Class assembly

Discussion

Role play

Answering a teacher's question

Debate

Some things you could do at home:

Activity

Description

Story retell & extension

- ▶ After reading, ask your child to retell the story in their own words. Then ask “What if ...?” questions: What if the character had done something different?

Thinking aloud together

- ▶ As you do a simple task (e.g. cooking, gardening), verbalise your thinking: “I’m choosing this spoon because it’s bigger ... Next, I’ll pour carefully ...” Encourage your child to narrate their thinking too.

Turn and talk

- ▶ During a walk, car ride or daily routine: pick a question (e.g. “What was your favourite part of school today—and why?”) and take turns speaking for 1-2 minutes each, no interruptions.

Topic of the week

- ▶ Pick a small topic (e.g. favourite animal / “space” / local place). Each day, talk about a different question (What would you see? What would you hear? What would you ask if you met an alien?).

Mirror talk / presentation

- ▶ Let your child speak to a family member or even a soft toy, pretending it’s a little “presentation.” It can be as simple as: My favourite toy is ... because ...

Quiz & question games

- ▶ Play “20 Questions” (yes/no questions), or guess-the-object games. Or have them ask you questions about your day—or about a book you read.

Games you could play - Ping Pong:

- ▶ Sit facing each other. Take it in turns to name different things one after the other.
- ▶ Animals
- ▶ Countries
- ▶ Colours
- ▶ Alphabet
- ▶ Something blue
- ▶ Something you eat



Games you could play - Back-to-Back:



Sit back-to-back with your child. One of you is the speaker (A) and the other is the illustrator (B).

- ▶ Partner B needs paper and a pencil.
- ▶ Partner A - draws a simple picture then describes the picture to Partner B.
- ▶ Partner B - draws the picture exactly as they hear it described.
- ▶ Share the finished pictures - do they match!?

Games you could play - Would you rather...?:



Face each other and discuss the following questions:

- ▶ Would you rather have a pet dinosaur or a pet dragon?
- ▶ Would you rather be able to fly like a bird or swim like a fish?
- ▶ Would you rather jump in a pool of chocolate or a pool of jelly?
- ▶ Would you rather be a giant or a tiny bug?
- ▶ Would you rather live in a castle or a treehouse?
- ▶ Would you rather have spaghetti for hair or ice cream for hands?
- ▶ Would you rather ride an elephant or a giraffe?
- ▶ Would you rather jump on clouds or walk over rainbows?
- ▶ Would you rather have a pet that talks or a pet that can fly?

Think of some of your own questions to add...

Useful websites you might like to visit:

- ▶ [Speech and Language UK](#) ▶ Offers advice and support if you are worried your child may have speech and language difficulties.
- ▶ [Words for Life](#) ▶ Offers support and activity ideas for children up to the age of 12.
- ▶ [Storyline Online](#) ▶ Stories read aloud that your child can listen to and then discuss with you.
- ▶ [Bedtime Math](#) ▶ A simple math story with fun reasoning and question prompts to share with your child.
- ▶ [Tiny Happy People](#) ▶ Early Years talk, games and videos.

Speech and Language UK 
Changing young lives.

“**Words for Life**”

Storyline Online

Bedtime Math

B B C