Language Development is like "Stacking Cups"

- Below you can see how the rest of communication develops using the "stacking cups".

- When you build the stacking cups you must go in order from widest to the narrowest so the tower will stand tall.

- In a similar way Parent-Child Interaction is placed on the bottom as the first and most-important skill; this needs to be in place before any other skills can develop.

Children must understand the meaning of words and sentences before they are able to use them to give a message to others. Once children have a bank of words that they can understand they will begin to use words one at a time and then link them together.

Speech sounds refer to the individual sounds we say to make words. Often children can say sounds from a very young age but when using them in combinations for words this can sound unclear. Children develop clear speech when they have had lots of talking practice by saying lots of different

Speech Sounds

Talking

Understanding

Play

Looking and Listening

Parent and Child Interaction

When a child can focus their attention for longer, they are able to develop their play in length and complexity. Play is important in communication development as it is interesting to children and therefore, they are more likely to listen to the words you say when you are talking about what they are doing.

As children play more, they listen to the words for what they are doing; therefore, their understanding of spoken words improves. Repetition is key for developing understanding; children need to hear a word approximately 200 times before they can understand its meaning.

Children learn to look at each other, smile, frown, laugh, cry, use body language and facial expressions, play together and sing. All of these are how you communicate together and help your child learn the skills needed to start to talk.

Children then learn to focus their attention for longer and to listen when something is said to them. At first children can have difficulty paying attention to more than one thing at a time; it is important that we think about how we can get their attention effectively when we communicate with them