

Grande Prairie Family
Centered Coalition

NEWSLETTER

September 2019



THIS MONTH WE FOCUS ON:

COMMUNICATION SKILLS & GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

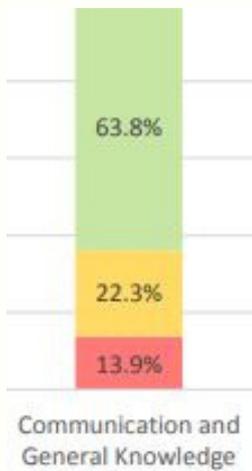
WHAT IS IT?

Communication Skills and General Knowledge includes children being able to communicate needs and wants in socially appropriate ways, the ability to tell stories, and having general knowledge about the outside world that is age appropriate. Communication is the ability to clearly express one's needs and to understand others (both talking and listening). General knowledge is an interest in the outside world.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

A child doing well has excellent communication skills, can tell a story and communicate with both children and adults, and has no problems with articulation. A child doing poorly has poor communication skills and articulation; has a limited command of English (or the language of instruction), has difficulties talking to others, understanding and being understood; and has poor general knowledge. Children who can communicate well - as both listeners and talkers - and who are curious to learn about the world around them, are children who are prepared to succeed at school and throughout life.

The chart below show data collected from the 2016 Early Development Instrument for Grande Prairie in the area of communication skills and general knowledge.



63.8% - Children will have excellent communication skills, can tell a story and communicate easily with both children and adults, and have no problems with articulation.

22.3% - Have mastered some but not all of the following communication skills: listening, understanding and speaking effectively in English, being able to articulate clearly, being able to tell a story and to take part in imaginative play. Children may not know some basic general knowledge about the world such as knowing that leaves fall in autumn, apple is fruit, and dogs bark.

13.9% - Children will have poor communication skills and articulation; have limited command of English (or the language of instruction), have difficulties talking to others, understanding, and being understood; and have poor general knowledge.

DEVELOPING COMMUNICATION SKILLS & GENERAL KNOWLEDGE



- Ask your child about his or her day - Find a comfortable time to talk about your child's day. Model this for your child by talking about your own day.
- Ask open-ended questions - ask "what happened at school?" or "what did you do outside?" Asking such questions will lead to more conversation than asking a question that only has a simple "yes" or "no" answer.
- Create a personal picture book or scrapbook with your child. Use photos of family and friends, and include images of your child's favorite objects and activities. Making your child their own special book will make him or her feel loved and special. Looking at the book together will help them learn about words, reading and writing.
- Play "Name that Emotion" - In books and on TV, ask your child to guess what the character is feeling, why the character is feeling that way and what the character might need.
- "You Talk, I'll Write" - Ask your child if he or she would like to write a note to a special person. It could be a mom or dad, grandparent, teacher or friend. Let your child tell you what to say, and then write their words down on a piece of paper for them. Give them suggestions if they need help. Read the note back to them and let your child see their words on the paper. Let them add decorations or pictures. This activity helps teach children about letters, words and writing. It shows them that a word they speak can be put onto paper and read back to them.