



TIERED LANGUAGE NURSERY

Tier 1 Vocabulary

Definition: High-frequency words that children typically acquire through conversation and direct experience. These will be taught in Autumn Term Nursery and displayed in both Nursery and Reception.

Conversational Words – these are everyday words and have no visuals around the classroom

Communication & Language

Angry	Ask	Bowl	Box	Bright
Car	Carry	Chair	Clap	Close
Cold	Copy	Cup	Daddy	Dark
Door	Dry	Eat	Food	Fork
He	Hear	Help	Her	Here
Hide	His	Hungry	I	In
Kick	Later	Listen	Loud	Me
Milk	Mine	Mummy	My	Open
Our	Out	Plate	Question	Quiet
Scared	See	She	Shoe	Sing
Sit	Sleep	Smell	Soon	Spoon
Table	Talk	Taste	That	There
They	Thirsty	This	Touch	Toy
Train	Water	Wave	We	Wet
You	Yours			

Personal, Social & Emotional Development (PSED)

Angry	Baby	Calm	Clean	Cry
Dirty	Excited	Family	Friend	Gentle
Go	Happy	Help	Laugh	Sad
Silly	Smile	Sorry	Take turns	Upset
Wait				

Physical Development

Catch	Climb	Crawl	Cut	Drop
Grip	Hold	Hop	Jump	Lift
Pinch	Press	Pull	Push	Roll
Run	Sit down	Skip	Slide	Spin
Squeeze	Stand up	Swing	Tap	Throw
Turn	Twist	Walk		

Literacy

Book	Circle	Colour	Dot	Draw
Find	Guess	Line	Look	Page
Paper	Pencil	Picture	Point	Say
Show	Song	Story	Tell	Turn
Write				



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Mathematics

After	Before	Big	Count	Different
Eight	Empty	First	Five	Four
Full	Group	Last	Less	Long
Many	More	Nine	On	One
Pair	Same	Seven	Short	Six
Small	Tall	Ten	Three	Two
Under				

Understanding the World

Bake	Birthday	Bucket	Child	Cloud
Cook	Family	Flower	Garden	Grass
Grow	Home	House	Jug	Leaf
Morning	New	Night	Old	Pan
Parents	Rain	Sand	School	Sky
Snow	Spade	Sun	Today	Tomorrow
Tree	Yesterday			

Expressive Arts & Design

Bead	Beat	Blue	Brush	Build
Button	Crayon	Dance	Glue	Green
Music	Paint	Play	Playdough	Pretend
Purple	Red	Scissors	Sing	Sound
Stick	String	Tape	Yellow	



TIERED LANGUAGE NURSERY

Tier 2 Curriculum and Maths Based Language

Definition: Words that are more sophisticated and are used across a variety of domains but are not typically part of everyday conversation.

Autumn 1 - Me and My Family	Match	Pattern	Shape	Size
	Sort			
Autumn 2 - Past and Present	Elf	Father Christmas	Fireworks	Owl
	Present	Star		
Spring 1 - Let's investigate	Dinosaur	Duck	Egg	Frog
	Pentagon	Rectangle	Square	Triangle
Spring 2 - Imaginary World	Bean	Chick	Easter	Pig
	Vegetable			
Summer 1 – Journeys	Boat	Hot Air Balloon	Kite	Pirate
	Walk			
Summer 2 - Animal Adventures	Bear	Bird	Butterfly	Caterpillar
	Chicken	Cow	Crocodile	Dog
	Duck	Elephant	Leopard	Lion
	Monkey	Pig	Rabbit	Snake
	Sheep	Tiger		

Tier 2 Concept Cat Vocabulary

Size, weight and measuring	Heavy	Little	Large	Light (not heavy)
	Thin			
Space	Above	Around	Back	Behind
	Between	Bottom	Front	Near
	Next to	Over	Side	Top
	Through			
Quantity	All	Both	Lots	Most
	Whole			
Properties	Bendy	Hard	New	Old
	Shiny	Soft		
Light and Sound	Light (not dark)	Noisy		
Movement	Backwards	Fast	Slow	Quick
Comparatives/ Superlatives	Bigger	Biggest	Heavier	Heaviest
	Longer	Longest	Taller	Tallest
Order/Organise	Next			
Time	Day			
Shape	Circle	Corner	Round	Straight



TIERED LANGUAGE NURSERY

Tier 3 Curriculum and Maths Based Language

Definition: Low-frequency, subject-specific vocabulary used in particular contexts or academic disciplines.

Autumn 1 - Me and My Family	Grandparent	Parent	Senses	
Autumn 2 - Past and Present	Celebration	Festival	Nocturnal	Numeral
	Subitise			
Spring 1 - Let's investigate	Autumn	Spring	Summer	Winter
Spring 2 - Imaginary World	Author	Capacity	Fairytale	Height
	Length	Life Cycle		
Summer 1 – Journeys	Adventure	Destination	Fewer than	More Than
	One Less	One More	Passenger	Sequencing
Summer 2 - Animal Adventures	Cocoon	Country	Habitats	