

Parent Oracy Workshop

Supporting Your Child's Voice: The Power of Oracy

Wednesday 15th October



Parent ice breaker...
please don't hate us!



Tidy / Messy

McDonalds / Burger King

Everton / Liverpool

Starbucks / Costa

Leopard print / Snakeskin

Tea / Coffee

On time / Late

Autumn / Summer

Ketchup / Brown Sauce



Let's watch why we are here today...

https://www.ted.com/talks/molly_wright_how_every_child_can_thrive_by_five



What is Oracy?

The definition of Oracy is the articulating of ideas, developing understanding and engaging with others through speaking, listening communication.

It is so much more than just talking!

It is structuring what we say, choosing the correct vocabulary, being aware of who we are talking to whilst listening well and responding thoughtfully



Why Do We Need to Teach Oracy?

Because **talk doesn't always “just happen”** — children need scaffolded opportunities and models.

Explicit teaching helps children:

- Know *how* to speak well (structure, clarity)

- Understand *when* to adapt language (for different listeners)

- Learn to listen, reflect, respond — not just talk in isolation

In short: we give children “permission” to talk, give them the vocabulary to do so and give them regular scaffolds and practice.



Why Oracy?

We are noticing children being unable to engage with board games, turn taking and losing.

Some great ideas to support this at home include Dobble, Snakes and Ladders, Snap, Top Trumps, Orchard games...



Activity

Story retell & extension

Thinking aloud together

Turn and talk

Topic of the week

Mirror talk / presentation

Quiz & question games

Description

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?*

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.

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.

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?).

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 ...*

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.



Tips for Making It Work



Keep it short and regular (5–10 minutes daily is better than occasional long sessions)

Be positive and encouraging — praise their voice, confidence, improvement

Use open questions (how, why, what do you think ...) not just yes/no

Model thinking and talk yourself — children often mimic how we talk

Be patient: some children will be more reserved — gently scaffold and invite

Vary the speakers: sometimes parent leads, sometimes child leads

What are we doing in school to promote good oracy skills?

- ▶ Values assemblies with an oracy focus
- ▶ Speech and language interventions
- ▶ Greater focus on drama/presentation skills in English lessons
- ▶ Chatter Chums – talking opportunities in classrooms
- ▶ More class assemblies
- ▶ Oracy embedded in all areas of the curriculum – you will sample some of these activities with your children

Activity Time



Activity 1: 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



Activity 2: Back to Back

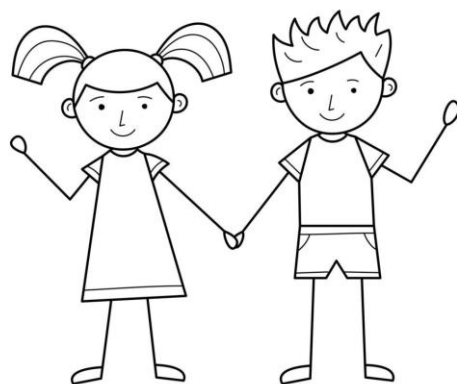
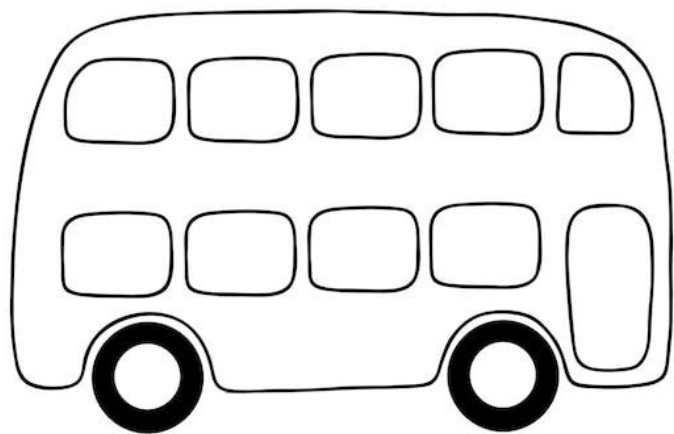
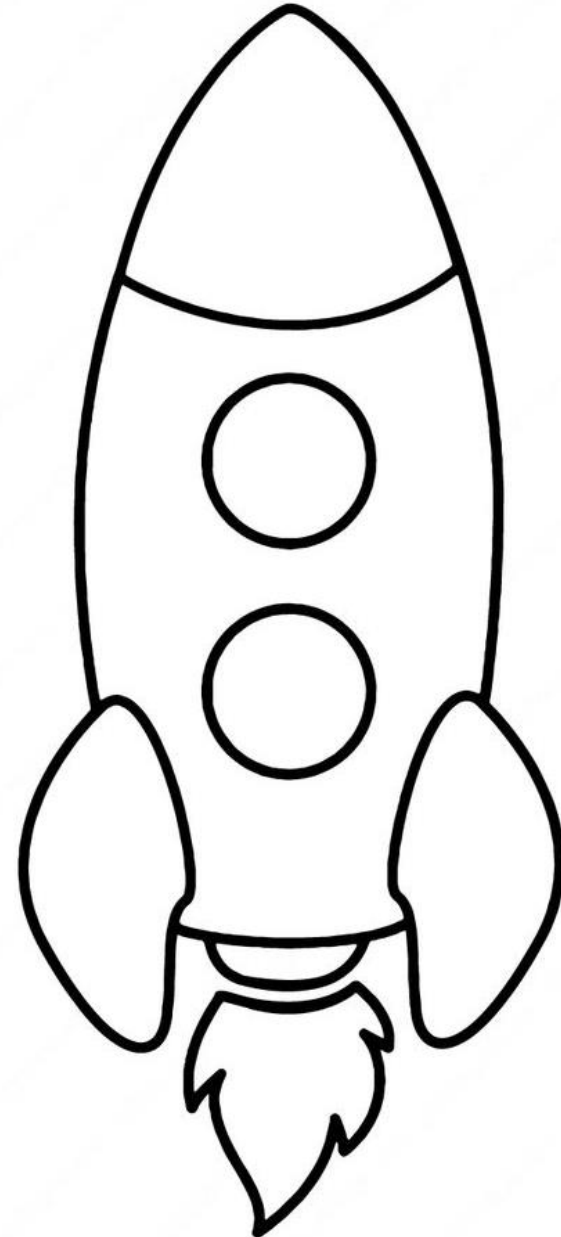
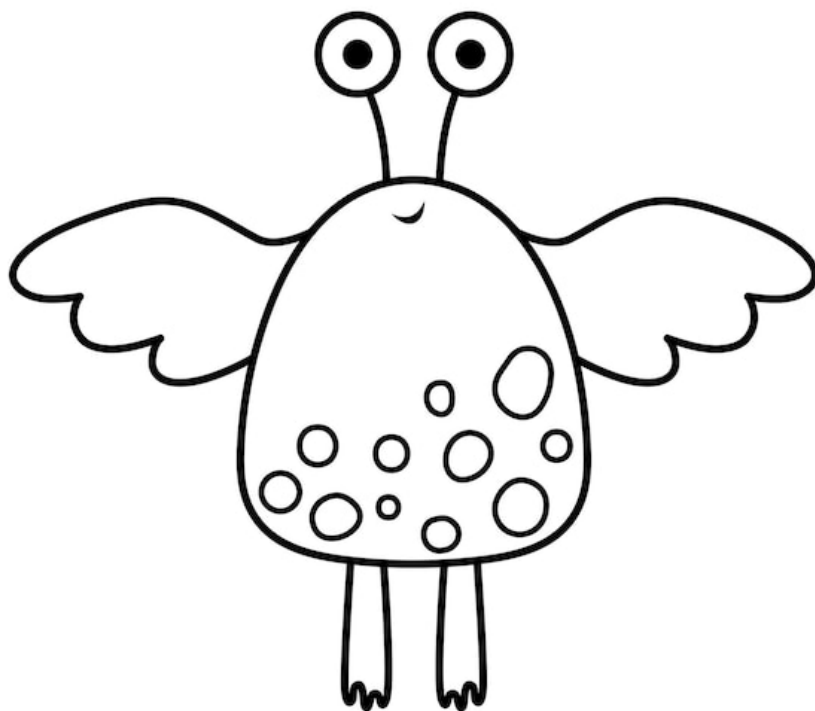
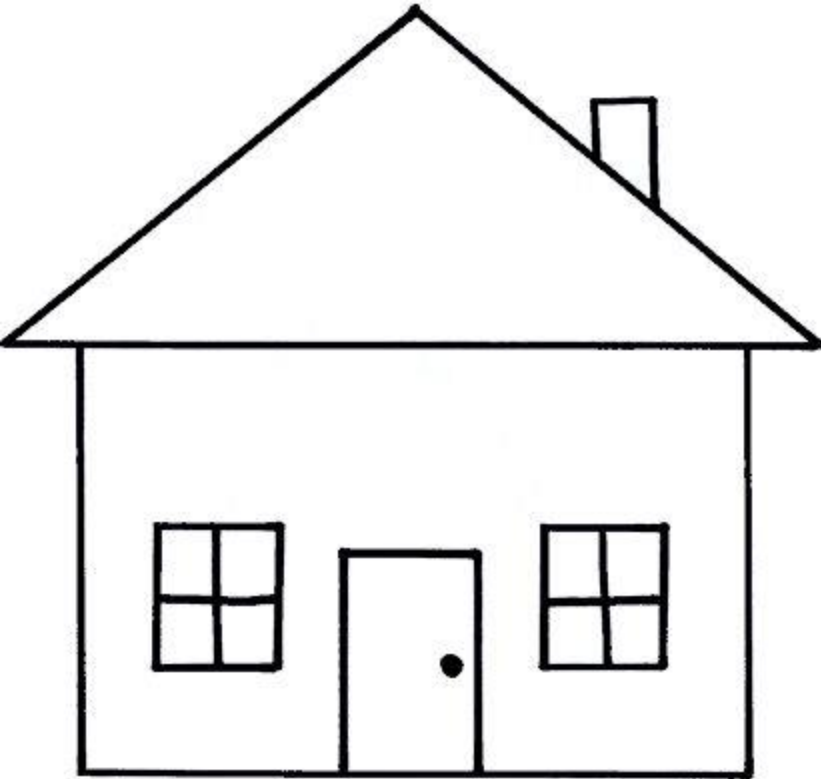
Sit back-to-back with your child. One of you is the speaker (A) and the other is the illustrator (B).

Partner B needs a clipboard with paper and a pencil.

Partner A – choose a picture from the selection on the table.
Describe the picture to Partner B.

Partner B – draw the picture exactly as you hear it described. Share the finished picture – does it match!?





Activity 3 – Concept Cartoons

Dogs are the best animals because they are so loving and they make you get out in the fresh air.



Tortoises are the best animals because they are easy to look after and don't need walking.

Who do you agree with and why?

Would you choose a different animal?



Activity 4: Hot seating

One partner needs to take on the role of The Big Bad Wolf from Little Red Riding Hood or The Three Little Pigs and answer questions from your partner in role.

Suggested questions...and think of your own!

How did you feel when the pigs would not let you in their houses?

Why do you want to eat the pigs / grandma so much?

Do you regret your actions? Why?



Activity 5: 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?

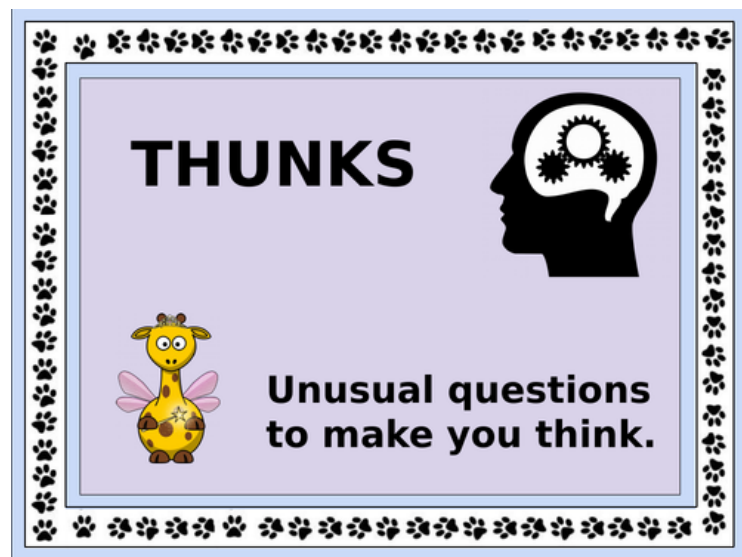
Would you rather jump on clouds or walk over rainbows?

Would you rather have a pet that talks or a pet that can fly?



Activity 6: Natter and Nibbles

Have a biscuit and a drink – perhaps take the chance to talk to somebody in a different class or year group! Explore the ‘Thunks’ cards on the tables.



Resources to try at home

Site / App

Use

Voice 21

UK charity with oracy resources & ideas.

[Cambridge Oracy Resources](#)

Free guides and examples.

BBC Tiny Happy People

Early-years talk games and videos.

Storyline Online

Watch stories read aloud and discuss.

Bedtime Maths /
Conversation Starter Cards

Fun reasoning and question prompts.



Final Thoughts

Oracy is the foundation for confidence, learning and future success.

Together — school and home — we can give children a **voice that's confident, kind and clear.**

Try one idea this week and celebrate your child's talk!

Thank you for coming today... bring on the children!

