

Oracy & Language Progression (Ages 2–7)

Cotmanhay Infant and Nursery School

Year Band Expected Oracy / Language Skills

2–3 Nursery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Uses single words and simple two word phrases to communicate needs and interests.- Understands simple instructions such as “coat on” or “tidy up”.- Listens to short interactions but attention may be fleeting.- Begins to copy familiar words and sounds in play.- Uses gesture, pointing and facial expression to support communication.
3–4 Nursery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Speaks in 3–5 word sentences and begins to join ideas with “and”.- Understands longer instructions (“Put the cup on the table then get your coat”).- Listens to stories for increasing periods and can recall simple events.- Begins to ask questions (“What’s that?”, “Where gone?”).- Uses talk to share ideas in play and negotiate simple roles.
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Speaks in full sentences using a growing range of vocabulary.- Listens attentively to stories and discussions, responding appropriately.- Understands and uses new vocabulary introduced through teaching.- Takes turns in conversation and stays on topic.- Explains ideas clearly using connectives such as “because”, “so”, “then”.
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Speaks confidently to familiar groups and begins to adapt talk for purpose.- Listens carefully to others and responds with relevant comments.- Uses a widening vocabulary including topic specific words.- Asks and answers questions to deepen understanding.- Retells events or stories in sequence with some detail.
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Speaks clearly and audibly with appropriate pace and expression.- Participates in group discussions, building on others’ ideas.- Uses increasingly precise vocabulary to explain, describe and reason.- Listens for specific information and responds thoughtfully.- Shares ideas and gives explanations to the class with confidence.

Oracy & Language Progression Grid

Cotmanhay Infant and Nursery School (Ages 2–7)

2–3 Nursery Stage Skills

- Uses single words or simple two-word combinations
- Relies on gesture, pointing and facial expression
- Responds to simple instructions
- Listens briefly but is easily distracted

- Uses 2–4 word phrases
- Copies familiar words and phrases
- Understands simple questions
- Listens to short stories with support

- Speaks in 3–5 word sentences
- Understands simple two-step instructions
- Uses talk to share ideas in play
- Joins in with repeated refrains

3–4 Nursery Stage Skills

- Speaks in 3–5 word sentences with clarity
- Begins to use simple connectives
- Understands longer instructions with cues
- Recalls simple events from stories

- Asks simple questions
- Uses talk to organise play
- Begins to use new vocabulary
- Takes short conversational turns

- Speaks in longer, more complex sentences
- Follows two-step instructions independently
- Retells simple stories in order
- Uses talk to negotiate and solve problems

Reception Stage Skills

- Speaks in full sentences but may lack detail
- Listens with reminders
- Begins to use new vocabulary
- Takes turns with support

- Speaks clearly to share ideas
- Uses connectives to explain thinking
- Listens attentively and responds
- Asks questions to clarify

- Uses wide vocabulary across learning
- Expresses ideas in detailed sentences
- Participates in discussions confidently
- Retells stories with structure

Year 1 Stage Skills

- Speaks clearly to familiar peers/adults
- Listens but may need reminders
- Uses topic vocabulary with support
- Answers simple questions

- Adapts talk for different purposes
- Listens and responds with relevance
- Asks questions to deepen understanding
- Retells stories with some detail

- Speaks confidently in small groups
- Uses widening, subject specific vocabulary
- Gives clear explanations and reasons
- Listens for key information

Year 2 Stage Skills

- Speaks clearly and audibly
- Participates in group talk with support
- Uses topic vocabulary with prompts
- Responds when asked

- Builds on others' ideas
- Uses precise vocabulary to explain
- Gives structured explanations
- Listens for specific information

- Speaks confidently to class or group
- Uses rich, precise vocabulary
- Shares ideas independently and with confidence
- Participates fully in discussions