



Power of Total Communication for Nursery Starters



As the summer holidays come to an end, early years settings buzz back to life with excited children ready to learn, explore, and grow. For many little ones, this transition can bring a mix of excitement and nerves—especially for children starting at a new setting for the very first time.

To make this return smooth and welcoming, adopting a total communication approach is key. This approach embraces all forms of communication—spoken language, sign language, gestures, visual supports, and even nonverbal communication such as body language—to support every child’s unique way of expressing themselves and understanding others.

Why is total communication so important?

- **Supports Language Development:** Young children develop language skills at different rates and in diverse ways. Using a variety of communication methods ensures that every child can participate and feel understood, no matter their language ability.
- **Builds Confidence:** When children feel heard and able to express themselves clearly, their confidence grows. This creates a positive learning environment where children are more willing to engage and try new things.
- **Eases Settling In:** For new children, the early days can be overwhelming. A total communication approach helps them connect with peers and adults quickly, reducing anxiety and fostering a sense of belonging.
- **Inclusivity for All:** Total communication breaks down barriers, making sure that children with additional communication needs have equal opportunities to join in and thrive.





As educators and caregivers, incorporating visual aids, signing, clear gestures, and responsive listening into everyday interactions can make a big difference. Celebrating all forms of communication helps create a nurturing environment where every child feels valued and understood.

So, as the doors open again this term, let's embrace total communication to help all our little learners settle in happily and blossom through the power of language—spoken, signed, gestured and beyond.

Joanna Kemp

Specialist Teacher - Complex Social Communication
Early Years Communication and Language Support Team
Based at Plym Bridge Nursery School, Estover, PL6 8UN
01752 769856
jkemp@plymbridge.net



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