

Helping Your Child Find Their Voice

P2 Parents' Workshop 2026



Contents

1  Oracy and Its Importance

2  The A.R.E. Structure

3  Practical Strategies for Home

What is Oracy?

Oracy is the ability to **articulate ideas**, develop understanding and **engage with others** through spoken language.

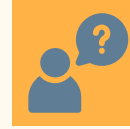
*It represents the skill of using voice to learn, connect and think — encompassing both speaking and **active listening**.*

Key Components of Oracy



Physical

Voice and body language



Linguistic

Vocabulary and sentence structure



Cognitive

Content



Social & Emotional

Confidence and active listening

Oracy as a Predictor of a Child's Future

Children with strong communication skills are four times more likely to achieve strong exam results.

BETTER COMMUNICATION RESEARCH PROGRAMME

52% of parents of children aged 5 to 9 believe their child struggles to make friends due to a lack of speaking confidence.

ESU / CENSUSWIDE SURVEY

85% of young people say oracy support at school would have helped them progress further in life.

ESU RESEARCH

More Than Just Talking...

Academically

- Deepens understanding across subjects
- Improves reading, writing and reasoning
- Builds vocabulary

Socially

- Helps make and keep friendships
- Develops empathy and perspective-taking
- Teaches turn-taking and cooperation

Emotionally

- Builds confidence and self-esteem
- Allows children to express their feelings
- Reduce anxiety
- Supports well-being

Recall



When did your child
last tell you something
that really surprised you?

Sounds Familiar?

How was school today?

Fine.

Did you enjoy your lesson?

Yes.

What did you learn?

Nothing.



Most children default to short answers because they **have not learned *how* to say more.**

A Framework to Express Thinking

✂ Without a framework

- ✗ Ideas come out jumbled or incomplete
- ✗ Children feel unsure where to start
- ✗ Responses trail off or stay surface-level

≡ With a framework

- ✓ Children know what to say next
- ✓ Responses become fuller and more detailed
- ✓ Thinking becomes visible and organised

A.R.E. Structure

A

ANSWER

State your answer clearly and directly.

R

REASON

Explain *why* you think that.

E

EXAMPLE

Give an example to support your reason.

Seeing A.R.E. in Action

"What is your favourite subject?"

A — Answer

"My favourite subject is Art."

R — Reason

"I like it because I get to be creative and use my imagination."

E — Example

"Last week, I painted a picture of my family and my teacher put it on the wall!"

FULL RESPONSE

"My favourite subject is Art. I like it because I get to be creative and use my imagination. Last week, I painted a picture of my family and my teacher put it on the wall!"

Try Another One

"Should children have more playtime at school?"

FULL RESPONSE

"I think children should have more playtime. Because playing helps us rest our brains and makes us feel happy. When I play with my friends during recess, I feel more ready to learn after."

A — Answer

"I think children should have more playtime."

R — Reason

"Because playing helps us rest our brains and makes us feel happy."

E — Example

"When I play with my friends during recess, I feel more ready to learn after."

Try A.R.E. With Your Child Tonight

Ask your child this question:

"What is your favourite food? Why?"

A

"What is your answer?"

R

"Why do you think that?"

E

"Can you give me an example?"



Tip: If your child gets stuck, model it yourself first! Show him/her how *you* would answer using A.R.E.

Strategy 1: Ask Open-Ended Questions

✕ Instead of...

"Did you have fun?"

"Was the book good?"

"Are you okay?"

"Did you understand?"

✓ Try...

"What was the best part of your day?"

"What did you think about the story?"

"How are you feeling right now?"

"Can you tell me what you learnt today?"



Open-ended questions signal to your child that their thoughts and opinions matter — and that there is no single right answer.

Strategy 2: Give Thinking Time



- Resist the urge to fill the silence or answer for them.
- *"Take your time. I'm listening."*

Wait time communicates:

"Your answer is worth waiting for."

Strategy 3: Model Good Speaking

"My favourite meal is chicken rice. I love it because it reminds me of weekends with my family when I was young. Every Sunday, we would go to the hawker centre together — that is my favourite memory."



Tip: Use the A.R.E. structure naturally without labelling each sentence. Your child will mirror the pattern over time.

Strategy 4: Make Home a Safe Place to Speak



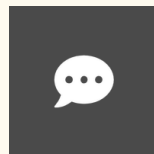
Value all ideas

Even if the answer is wrong, praise the effort.



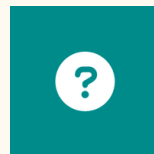
Eye contact

Put down devices and show you are fully listening.



Don't rush to correct

Focus on *what* they are saying before correcting *how* they say it.



Encourage questions

It's okay to ask "why" and challenge ideas respectfully.

Strategy 5: Oracy Happens Everywhere



During meals

"What was the best part of your day?"



Grocery shopping

"Which snack would you like?"



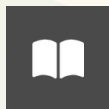
In the car or bus

"Look at that building. What do you think it's used for?"



Watching TV

"What do you think will happen next?"



Reading together

"Why do you think the character did that?"

Strategy 6: Model Active Listening

What it looks like:

Making eye contact with the speaker

Not interrupting

Asking a follow-up question

Summarising what you heard

Modelling it at home:

Give your child your full attention

Avoid finishing their sentences

Reflect back

Acknowledge different viewpoints

Bonus: Reading Aloud

Why it works	Tips
Exposes children to rich vocabulary	Take turns reading alternate pages
Models tone, expression and pacing	Use varied voices and expressions
Provides natural prompts	Pause and wonder aloud
Builds listening comprehension	Ask what he/she would do differently

Your Oracy Toolkit at a Glance

1

The A.R.E. Structure

Answer, Reason, Example. A simple framework to organise thoughts.

2

Open-Ended Questions

Ask questions that invite more than a simple "yes" or "no".

3

Thinking Time

Pause for 5–10 seconds to let your child formulate his/her thoughts.

4

Model the Structure

Show him/her how it's done naturally in everyday conversation.

5

Safe Space to Speak

Value all ideas, maintain eye contact, listen actively and don't rush to correct.

6

Practice Everywhere

Weave oracy into daily routines.

Question & Answer



Mdm Kalpana: Level Head/English Language

Miss Nurul Ain: Senior Teacher/English Language