

Welsh Language Development in the Foundation Phase

This factsheet will help support you to develop Welsh language skills with children as they progress through the Foundation Phase. It focuses on:

- Helping you to gain more confidence in communicating in Welsh with very young children
- Hints and tips about how to promote the Welsh language in your nursery
- Your role in planning for Welsh Language Development across all Areas of Learning.
- Songs and games based on the outdoor environment.

Children in the Foundation Phase should acquire and absorb Welsh through a holistic curriculum, through structured play, and through having a specific structured developmental and progressive programme.

Welsh Language Development, Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills 2008.

Download **Welsh Language Development** for free from:

wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/earlyyearshome/foundation_phase/foundationphasepractitioners/welshlanguage/?lang=en

Children growing up in Wales have the right to feel a sense of belonging to Wales and its culture and to enjoy experiences in, and of, the Welsh language. As young children spend time in nursery they can easily and successfully pick up the basics of a new language. Depending on how many hours are spent in the nursery, a child is likely to develop a good understanding of the new language if you provide enough stimulation.

Speaking a new language fluently will come later than understanding. When a child has developed the ability to understand Welsh at nursery, this understanding will gradually transform to speaking as they progress through the Foundation Phase. This can be a starting point for them to communicate in Welsh according to their ability.

Estyn's **Welsh in the Foundation Phase** Report (2013) gives the following recommendations:

Schools and settings should:

- Set clear expectations which will ensure that pupils from all backgrounds use the Welsh language as they pursue informal activities, particularly at the beginning of the Foundation Phase
- Set clear expectations for practitioners with regards to using the Welsh language in the Foundation Phase so as they introduce and model a good standard of Welsh to their pupils across areas of learning.

Download **Welsh in the Foundation Phase**:

www.estyn.gov.uk/english/docViewer/296123.1/welsh-in-the-foundation-phase-developing-welsh-as-a-first-language-in-primary-schools-and-the-non-maintained-sector-december-2013/?navmap=30,163

gaining more confidence in communicating in Welsh in the early years

The Welsh language is a phonetic language - this makes it easier to pronounce than other languages! Each individual letter, with one or two exceptions, represents one sound only - that is, you say what you see.

Below are a few examples of words and phrases that can be used in everyday situations in your day nursery, with words in brackets indicating pronunciation.

using prepositions in Welsh throughout the day while speaking in English sentences:

ar ôl (ahr – roll) the vowel here is 'ô' so it is pronounced as a long vowel	after
o gwmpas (oh – goo – m – pass) the vowel 'o' is pronounced as a short vowel as in 'or'	around
at (at)	at
cyn (kin)	before
o dan (oh – dan)	beneath or below
ger / wrth (g –err)	beside/near

(you say 'g' as in 'get')	
rhwng (rh – oo – ng)	between
i lawr (ee – lower) (as in shower)	down
gan (gan)	from (as in 'from me to you')
o'r (or)	from (as in 'from the 'water tray')
i mewn (ee - meow - n)	inside
yn (un)	in
agos (a – gos)	near
ar (arr)	on
allan (a – clan) (to say 'll' put the tip of the tongue against the roof of the mouth and hiss!)	out
dros (dross)	over
drwy (dr – wii)	through
i (ee)	to
i fyny (ee – vun – ee)	up
gyda (gee – dah) (say 'g' as in 'got')	with
tu ôl (tee – ole) (the vowel here is 'ô' so it is pronounced as a long vowel)	behind

greeting the children as they arrive at the nursery:

Helo	hello
Bore da (bore-ray-dah)	good morning
Pnawn da (per-noun-dah)	good afternoon

Tyrd i mewn (tier-dee-meow-n)	come in
Tynna dy gôt (ton-a-duh -goat)	take off your coat

saying goodbye

Hwyl (who-ill)	bye
Hwyl fawr (who – ill – vow – r)	goodbye

saying the days of the week

Dydd (d – ee – th) (say 'th' as in 'the')	Day
Dydd Llun (d – ee - th - cleen) (to say 'll' put the tip of the tongue against the roof of the mouth and hiss!)	Monday
Dydd Mawrth (d – ee – th - mouth)	Tuesday
Dydd Mercher (d – ee - th - mare-chair) (say 'ch' as you would say loch)	Wednesday
Dydd Iau (d – ee - th - eee-aye)	Thursday
Dydd Gwener (d – ee - th - goo – when – air)	Friday
Dydd Sadwrn (d – ee - th - sad – oo – rr – n)	Saturday
Dydd Sul (d – ee - th - s – eel)	Sunday

hints and tips on how to promote the Welsh language within the Foundation Phase

Use incidental Welsh throughout the day rather than as a separate activity. Young children will become familiar with these words and begin to use them themselves

Singing songs and playing games are a really good way to encourage the use of Welsh in the Foundation Phase. These are some examples below. Well-known tunes have been used in order to make these songs easier to learn (English translations are also provided)

Label resources in Welsh so that young children can begin to recognise the written language. Here are some examples: ardal dywod – **sand area**, ardal gyfforddus – **cosy area**, ardal dwr – **water area**, ardal graffeg – **graphic area**, ardal chwarae rôl – **role-play**

area, ardal hydryn a chyffyrddol – **malleable and tactile area**, ardal byd bach – **small world area** and ardal adeiladwaith – **construction area**.

on the theme of the outdoor environment

Amser picnic

Amser picnic, amser picnic /snac/ cinio/ te

Yn yr ardd, yn yr ardd / yn y cae / /parc

Picnic bendigedig, picnic bendigedig

Yn yr ardd, yn yr ardd.

Picnic time

Picnic time time/snack/lunch/tea

In the garden, in the garden (in the field) (park)

Wonderful picnic, wonderful picnic

In the garden, in the garden

Be ti'n glywed? / Be ti'n weld?

Be ti'n glywed? Be ti'n glywed?

Brrm, brrm car/Clip clop ceffyl/Mŵ, mŵ buwch.

Be ti'n glywed? Be ti'n glywed?

Brrm, brrm car/Clip clop ceffyl/Mŵ mŵ buwch.

Be ti'n weld? Tŷ mawr gwyn

Car bach coch

Coeden mawr

Glaswellt gwyrdd.

What do you hear? / What do you see?

What do you hear? What do you hear?

Brrm, brrm car/Clip clop horse/Moo, moo cow. What do you hear? What do you hear?

Brrm, brrm car/Clip clop horse/Moo, moo cow

What do you see? Big white house

Little red car

Big tree

Green grass.

Be sy yn y cae?

(tune: the farmer wants a wife)

Be sy yn y cae? Be sy yn y cae? Hei ho hei di ho, Be sy yn y cae?

Be sy ar y ffordd?

Be sy ar y ffordd? Be sy ar y ffordd / heol? Hei ho hei di ho, Be sy ar y ffordd?

Be sy ar y stryd?

Be sy are y stryd? Be sy ar y stryd?

What's in the field?

What's in the field? What's in the field? Hey ho hey dee ho, What's in the field?

What's on the road?

What's on the road? What's on the road? Hey ho hey dee ho, What's on the road?

What's on the street?

What's on the street? What's on the street? Hey ho hey dee ho, What's on the street?

Hei ho hei di ho, Be sy ar y stryd?

suggestions of what to sing about in the field and on the road:

Ceffyl - **horse**, buwch - **cow**, dafad - **sheep**, mochyn - **pig**, tractor - **tractor**, ffermwr - **farmer**, co-eden - **tree**, fan - **van**, bws - **bus**, lori - **lorry**, blwch post - **post box**, plant - **children**, pobl - **people**.

games

Mae'r ffermwr eisiau gwraig

ffermwr

gwraig

babi

ci

cath

The farmer wants a wife

farmer

wife

baby

dog

cat

Be di'r amser Mr Blaidd?

un o'r gloch

dau o'r gloch

tri o'r gloch

pedwar o'r gloch

pump o'r gloch

chwech o'r gloch

saith o'r gloch

wyth o'r gloch

naw o'r gloch

deg o'r gloch

un deg un o'r gloch

What's the time Mr Wolf?

1 o'clock

2 o'clock

3 o'clock

4 o'clock

5 o'clock

6 o'clock

7 o'clock

8 o'clock

9 o'clock

10 o'clock

11 o'clock

un deg dau o'r gloch

12 o'clock

amser cinio

dinner time

circle time clothes game

Have the children sitting in a circle. Place an assortment of clothing suitable for different weather conditions in the centre of the circle. Children choose suitable clothing as an adult calls out. For example:

- Mae'n bwrw glaw - **It's raining**
- Mae'n boeth - **It's hot**
- Mae'n oer - **It's cold**
- Mae'n heulog - **It's sunny**
- Mae'n bwrw eira - **It's snowing**

Dice clothes game is an adaptation of the above game, using a dice showing different weather on each side of the dice, for children to identify the weather and select the suitable clothing.

on the theme of the seaside

Ble mae'r cregyn ?

(tune: Freres Jacques)

Ble mae'r cregyn?

Ble mae'r cregyn?

Ar y traeth, ar y traeth.

Ble mae'r cregyn?

Ble mae'r cregyn?

Ar y traeth, ar y traeth.

Where are the shells?

Where're the shells?

Where're the shells?

On the beach, on the beach.

Where're the shells?

Where're the shells?

On the beach, on the beach.

Cerddwch, Nofiwch, Sblasiwch

(tune: The Farmer wants a wife)

Cerddwch at y bêl,

Walk, Swim, Splash

Walk to the ball

Cerddwch at y bêl,
Hei ho, heidi ho,
Cerddwch at y bêl

Walk to the ball
Hei ho, heidi ho
Walk to the ball

Nofiwch yn y môr....

Swim in the sea...

Sblasiwch yn y dwr....

Splash in the water...

Nofio yn y môr

(tune: The farmer wants a wife)

Dwi'n nofio yn y môr,
Dwi'n nofio yn y môr,
Hei ho, heidi ho
Dwi'n nofio yn y môr.

Swimming in the sea

I'm swimming in the sea,
I'm swimming in the sea,
Hey ho, hey dee ho
I'm swimming in the sea.

Dwi'n chwarae ar y traeth,
Dwi'n chwarae ar y traeth,
Hei ho, heidi ho
Dwi'n chwarae ar y traeth.

I'm playing on the beach,
I'm playing in the beach,
Hey ho, hey dee ho
I'm playing on the beach.

on the theme of animals

Ci ydw i

(tune: The farmer wants a wife)

Ci ydw i,
Ci ydw i,
Bow-wow, bow-wow,
Ci ydw i.

I am a dog

I am a dog,
I am a dog,
Bow-wow, bow-wow,
I am a dog.

Cath ydw i,

I am a cat,

Cath ydw i,
Mi-aw, mi-aw,
Cath ydw i.

I am a cat,
Me-ow, me-ow,
I am a cat.

Buwch ydw i,
Buwch ydw i,
Mw, mw, mw, mw,
Buwch ydw i.

I am a cow,
I am a cow,
Moo, moo, moo, moo,
I am a cow.

Dafad ydw i,
Dafad ydw i,
Me, me, me, me,
Dafad ydw i.

I am a sheep,
I am a sheep,
Meh, meh, meh, meh,
I am a sheep.

Ceffyl ydw i,
Ceffyl ydw i,
Clip, clop, clip, clop,
Ceffyl ydw i.

I am a horse,
I am a horse,
Clip, clop, clip, clop,
I am a horse.

The above songs, sung to well-known tunes, can also be used as games. By using masks children can take turns being an animal, or showing the animal to the rest of the group for them all to sing together.

Be sy ar y fferm, yn y sw, yn y shop?
(tune: the farmer wants a wife)

**What's on the farm, in the
zoo, in the shop?**

Be sy ar y fferm?
Be sy ar y fferm?
Hei ho hei di ho,
Be sy ar y fferm?

What's on the farm?
What's on the farm?
Hey ho hey de ho,
What's on the farm?

Be sy yn y sw? (yn y siop?)

Ci sy ar y fferm.....

Eliffant sy yn y sw.....

Cwningen sy yn y shop.....

What's in the zoo? (in the shop?)

A dog is on the farm.....

An elephant is in the zoo.....

A rabbit is in the shop.....

Another way to play a game with the songs is to have a bag or box representing the farm, zoo or pet shop with toy animals inside, asking what's in there and then answering depending on what's brought out.

your role in planning Welsh Language Development across all Areas of Learning

You should ensure that young children in the Foundation Phase have opportunities to develop, apply and extend their skills of communication, speaking and listening and as they progress through the Foundation Phase. Specific activities and resources will help to promote the Welsh language and to provide opportunities to use Welsh in the Foundation Phase. Here are some examples of how to develop Welsh across all Areas of Learning:

personal and social development, well-being and cultural diversity

During circle time for example, encourage children to answer questions on moral issues by using emotional phrases and describe how they are feeling in Welsh. Encourage responses in Welsh related to sharing and caring through role-play. There are bilingual leaflets available to download free from NDNA's member log-in area on the website on the subjects of Spring, Easter, St David's Day, Summer, Autumn and Harvest, Winter and Christmas and feelings.

language, literacy and communication skills

Listening to and joining in with rhymes, songs and stories in Welsh is an excellent way for young children to develop their use of the Welsh language. Repeating the same story over and over will allow children time to remember the words. Change the ending of the story every time and make it into a game. They will soon choose the book and start acting like readers. This will help them to develop an understanding of the difference between pictures and the written word.

mathematical development

Listening to and joining in with counting rhymes in Welsh are good ways to help children begin to develop their Welsh vocabulary in the early years. Encourage children to use Welsh words or phrases when solving mathematical problems.

knowledge and understanding of the world

Give young children lots of opportunities to observe Welsh signs and features in their setting environment. There are downloadable bilingual leaflets available free on NDNA's website to help you plan effective provision to explore and investigate living and non-living things indoors and outdoors whilst developing the Welsh language. Examples of some leaflets available via the member-only log in area are the weather, all about me, my body and my family, and animals.

physical development

Whilst taking part in games and activities as suggested in this factsheet children could give and receive instructions in Welsh. Children can express themselves in Welsh about how they feel after strenuous activity, as an example. Always use the Welsh command first and follow with the English if it is obvious that a child has not understood.

creative development

Use Welsh vocabulary when engaging young children in creative, imaginative and expressive activities in art, craft, design, music, dance and movement. Creative Development provides children with opportunities to express their ideas, feelings and emotions imaginatively through painting, model making, role play, music and dance. Incidental Welsh provided by you will help the children develop their use of the language. Bilingual leaflets are available free for members to download from the NDNA website.

further information

The following leaflets can be downloaded from the member-only area at www.ndna.org.uk

- Greetings, days, months, seasons, times
- Numbers, shapes, size, colour
- Winter and Christmas
- Spring, Easter, St. David's Day
- Summer
- Autumn and harvest
- Parts of the nursery and everyday nouns
- Food and drink
- All about me, my body and my family

- The weather
- Simple sentences
- Feelings
- Animals
- Hygiene and toileting.

other resources

Welsh Language Development supports the Foundation Phase Framework for Children's Learning for 3-7 year olds in Wales. It is available to download free from:

wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/earlyyearshome/foundation_phase/foundationphasepractitioners/welshlanguage/?lang=en

This guide will also provide details of useful information and contacts to help practitioners find out what support is available from their local authority area.

A Parents' and Teachers' Guide to Bilingualism, 2nd edition, Colin Baker ISBN 1-85359-455 5

Mabon a Mabli, a subsidiary company of Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin, has educational resources for the under 7s available at www.mabonamabli.co.uk or telephone 01970 639622.

Twf gives advice to parents on the advantages of introducing Welsh at home and on raising their children bilingually

twfcymru.com/

Ticw Introductory Pack - a Welsh language resource to help develop the Welsh language in your setting. Available from Flintshire Local Education Authority on 01244 545979.

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Published: May 2014