

# Chatta app Information for Parents

## Information about Chatta.

**Chatta** is a an app for tablets, that has been designed as a tool to help practitioners develop early language skills. It is based on the well-established understanding that children develop spoken language based on language they hear and are enabled to become engaged in.

**Chatta** is not a tool for children to use or and educational app. It is used to capture images and voices, not to get in the way of play, exploration and discovery based learning. **Chatta** is designed to accelerate language development.

Unsupervised and unlimited use of technology can be detrimental to essential physical, social and emotional development.

Play is central to the use and impacts of **Chatta**. Experiences which lead to emotions, thoughts and memories provide a platform for the development of language and communication.

**Chatta** works by practitioners talking about every day events with children, to describing what is happening and seen, repeating words, phrases , rhymes and songs. There are countless daily opportunities for adults to speak to children about what they are doing. Sharing language, facial expressions and oral communication in a range of situations is essential to early language development.

The **Chatta** app allows adults to record their voices and link spoken words to images. This can be in the most simple form such as single words or in more detailed sentences.

One of the central strengths of the **Chatta** approach is that it multiplies and magnifies the impact of modelled adult language in two ways. Firstly, It provides a clear link connecting spoken language to images. Secondly it allows recordings to be played and listened to repeatedly in the form of talking books or chats, which forms the audio-visual diary in the **Chatta** app.

## Why are we implementing the Chatta approach?

As a setting we have decided to implement the **Chatta** approach to help develop children's early language skills. We feel language development is essential to children and without good early language skills this can affect children later on in their development. We strive to give children the best possible start in life. We know language underpins a child's development of reading and writing.

Spoken language is the most important aspect of a child's development, but many children are starting school unable to speak in sentences. As a result reading, writing and learning skills are suffering within the class room.

**Chatta** will also help develop the children's already existing language skills by providing the children with talking points and modelling the next stage in language development.

## Parents as partners.

Communication between practitioners and parent/carers is vital. **Chatta** provides a high-impact way of sharing information with parents and carers.

- Practitioners can email parents/carers direct with any chats they have done that day that are significant to their development.
- Send information to parents/carers, such as notices and events that may be happening.
- Help support your child's transition by sending home pictures and voice recording via email.
- Parents/carers will be able to email pictures to the staff of what the children have been doing over the weekend or special events, for their child to talk about with their key worker.
- Pictures of any achievements will be sent direct to parent/carers.

**For more information please speak to your child's key worker.**

**Please note the email's sent via the Chatta app are for that purpose only if you have any other enquiries these must go through the office.**