



# Session overview

For pupils to be successful in the classroom, they need to be able to access the curriculum being taught. However, for many pupils, there are barriers that prevent them from doing so. One potential barrier to learning is poor literacy skills (EEF, 2018).

You can support pupils' literacy development whichever phase or subject you are teaching. To support you to do this, in this session you will explore:

- the importance of high-quality oral language
- teaching vocabulary (*this has been split into two sections. You will only need to access the section which is most suitable to your phase. If you teach pupils in key stage one, you may also wish to explore 'Developing language in Early Years'*):
  - developing language in Early Years
  - developing language in Primary and Secondary settings.

---

## ECF statements covered

### Subject and curriculum

Learn that... Learn how to...

3.10 Every teacher can improve pupils' literacy, including by explicitly teaching reading, writing and oral language skills specific to individual disciplines.

#### Develop pupils' literacy, by:

- teaching unfamiliar vocabulary explicitly and planning for pupils to be repeatedly exposed to high-utility and high-frequency vocabulary in what is taught.
- modelling and requiring high-quality oral language, recognising that spoken language underpins the development of reading and writing (e.g. requiring pupils to respond to questions in full sentences, making use of relevant technical vocabulary).

### classroom practice

Learn how to...

#### Stimulate pupil thinking and check for understanding, by:

- providing scaffolds for pupil talk to increase the focus and rigour of dialogue.

### adaptive teaching

Learn that...

5.2 Seeking to understand pupils' differences, including their different levels of prior knowledge and potential barriers to learning, is an essential part of teaching.