



Early Years 'I Can' Statements

Building foundational skills for young learners' success

Pre-Nursery 'I Can' Statements



Communication & Language

Listening and Responding

Children engage with their surroundings by listening to stories and rhymes, enhancing auditory skills and love for language.

Comprehension and Social Awareness

Responding to names and simple instructions shows developing understanding and early social interaction skills.

Expressive Language Milestone

Using single words to express needs marks significant progress in early expressive language abilities.

Physical Development

Fine Motor Skills Development

Children improve hand-eye coordination by safely holding and exploring objects during early development.

Gross Motor Skills Growth

Walking, climbing, and moving with confidence demonstrates children's growing strength and balance.

Self-Feeding Independence

Beginning to feed themselves and drink from a cup promotes self-care and independence in children.

Support for Overall Development

Physical abilities support cognitive and emotional growth by enabling interaction with surroundings.



Personal, Social & Emotional Development



Developing Sense of Self

Pre-Nursery children start forming their identity and learn to separate from parents, gaining independence.

Social Interaction

Playing alongside peers helps children understand social norms and encourages cooperative behavior.

Emotional Expression

Children express basic emotions like happiness or sadness, aiding communication and empathy development.

Emotional Resilience

Early emotional experiences help build secure attachments and resilience for future learning environments.

Literacy

Visual Literacy and Narrative

Children explore books and pictures, enhancing visual literacy and understanding of stories.

Name Recognition Milestone

Recognizing their own name in print helps children connect symbols to identity early on.

Phonemic Awareness

Hearing and saying initial sounds in words introduces essential phonemic awareness for reading.

Cognitive and Imaginative Growth

Early literacy activities stimulate children's imagination and cognitive development.





Mathematics

Basic Number Sense

Children learn to count objects up to five, developing a fundamental understanding of quantity and numerical order.

Analytical Thinking Skills

Comparing groups to find which has more fosters early problem-solving and analytical thinking abilities.

Shape Recognition and Spatial Awareness

Recognizing simple shapes like circles and squares enhances spatial awareness and categorization skills.

Understanding the World



Exploring Environment

Children explore their immediate surroundings to make sense of everyday experiences, fostering early learning.

Family and Identity

Talking about family and home helps children develop a sense of identity and belonging.

Observing Natural Changes

Noticing weather and seasonal changes introduces children to natural phenomena and patterns.

Curiosity and Inquiry

Children ask 'why' questions, demonstrating curiosity and building early scientific thinking skills.



Expressive Arts & Design

Creative Expression Through Art

Painting and drawing help children explore colors, shapes, textures, and enhance fine motor skills.

Language Development Through Singing

Singing simple songs supports language development and helps children recognize rhythm and patterns.

Imagination via Role-Play

Pretending in role-play areas fosters imagination and social understanding through experimenting with roles.

Nursery to Reception 'I Can' Statements



Communication & Language

Expressing Preferences

Children start talking about their likes and dislikes, showing increased confidence and curiosity.

Following Instructions

Following two-step instructions reflects improvements in listening and memory abilities.

Story Retelling

Retelling stories with pictures demonstrates understanding of narrative sequencing and structure.



Physical Development

Fine Motor Skills Development

Children enhance hand strength and coordination by using scissors to cut paper, improving fine motor skills.

Independence through Dressing

Learning to dress themselves with some help fosters self-care and independence in children.

Early Writing Skills

Holding a pencil and making marks develops control and precision, essential for writing readiness.



Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Cooperation and Fairness

Sharing toys and taking turns teach children important social skills like cooperation and fairness.

Emotional Understanding

Talking about feelings helps children understand and manage their emotions, fostering empathy.

Structure and Discipline

Following simple game rules introduces children to structure and discipline essential for group adaptation.

Literacy



Name Recognition

Recognizing their name in print helps reinforce letter recognition and builds personal identity.

Phonemic Awareness

Hearing and saying initial sounds in words supports phonemic awareness, essential for decoding skills.

Comprehension and Vocabulary

Enjoying books and discussing pictures enhances comprehension and vocabulary development in early readers.

Reading Fluency Foundation

These foundational skills are critical for developing fluency and fostering a lifelong love of literature.



Mathematics

Counting and Comparison

Children count objects up to ten and compare groups to understand quantity differences.

Shape Recognition

Recognizing simple shapes like circles and squares helps develop spatial reasoning and categorization skills.

Building Number Sense

These foundational skills support number sense and problem-solving for advanced math learning.

Understanding the World



Exploring Environment

Children engage with their surroundings through family, home, and nature exploration, building curiosity and understanding.

Observing Weather Changes

Noticing weather patterns enhances children's observational skills and awareness of natural phenomena.

Asking Why Questions

Curiosity through asking questions helps children connect experiences and develop foundational scientific knowledge.

Connecting to the Wider World

Understanding surroundings links children's experiences to the wider world enabling early geography and science learning.



Expressive Arts & Design

Singing and Memory

Singing simple songs supports children's memory retention and develops their sense of rhythm.

Painting and Creativity

Using paint and crayons helps children develop creativity and fine motor skills through art creation.

Role-Play and Expression

Engaging in role-play activities allows children to explore scenarios and express emotions and ideas.

Reception to Year 1 'I Can' Statements

Communication & Language



Advanced Speaking Skills

Children speak in full sentences to clearly explain ideas with confidence and clarity.

Active Listening and Response

Listening carefully and responding to questions shows comprehension and active engagement.

Vocabulary Development

Using new vocabulary in conversation reflects cognitive growth and language acquisition.

Curriculum Alignment

Skills align with National Curriculum for English speaking and listening for academic and social success.



Physical Development

Refined Motor Skills

Writing letters with proper pencil grip improves fine motor control and supports literacy development.

Movement and Coordination

Confident movement in various ways enhances coordination, balance, and physical fitness in children.

Self-Care Abilities

Managing personal hygiene independently fosters responsibility and self-sufficiency among children.



Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Social Awareness and Collaboration

Children develop social awareness by working in groups, encouraging collaboration and critical thinking.

Emotional Regulation and Intelligence

Talking about and managing feelings supports children's emotional intelligence and self-understanding.

Maturity and Self-Discipline

Following classroom rules without reminders shows children's growing maturity and self-discipline.



Literacy

Structured Literacy Skills

Children learn to read simple sentences using phonics and write short sentences with punctuation.

Spelling Proficiency

Correct spelling of common words shows growing proficiency in written communication.

Curriculum Alignment

Literacy skills align with the National Curriculum for English reading and writing standards.

Mathematics



Basic Arithmetic Skills

Children learn to add and subtract numbers within 10, laying foundational math skills.

Shape Recognition

Students recognize and name both 2D and 3D shapes, enhancing spatial awareness.

Measurement Concepts

Children compare lengths, weights, and capacities to understand measurement basics.

Curriculum Alignment

These skills align with the National Curriculum supporting problem-solving and logical reasoning.



Understanding the World

Naming Animals and Plants

Children learn to identify and name common animals and plants to build foundational knowledge of the natural world.

Discussing Past and Present Events

Engaging children in conversations about historical and current events enhances their understanding of time and context.

Using Technology for Simple Tasks

Introducing basic technology use helps children develop early digital literacy aligned with curriculum goals.



Expressive Arts & Design

Creative Expression

Children use diverse materials to create pictures, sing songs, and perform dances, enhancing creativity.

Self-Reflection and Communication

Discussing artwork promotes self-reflection and effective communication skills among children.

Curriculum Alignment

Activities align with the National Curriculum supporting creativity, confidence, and cultural awareness.