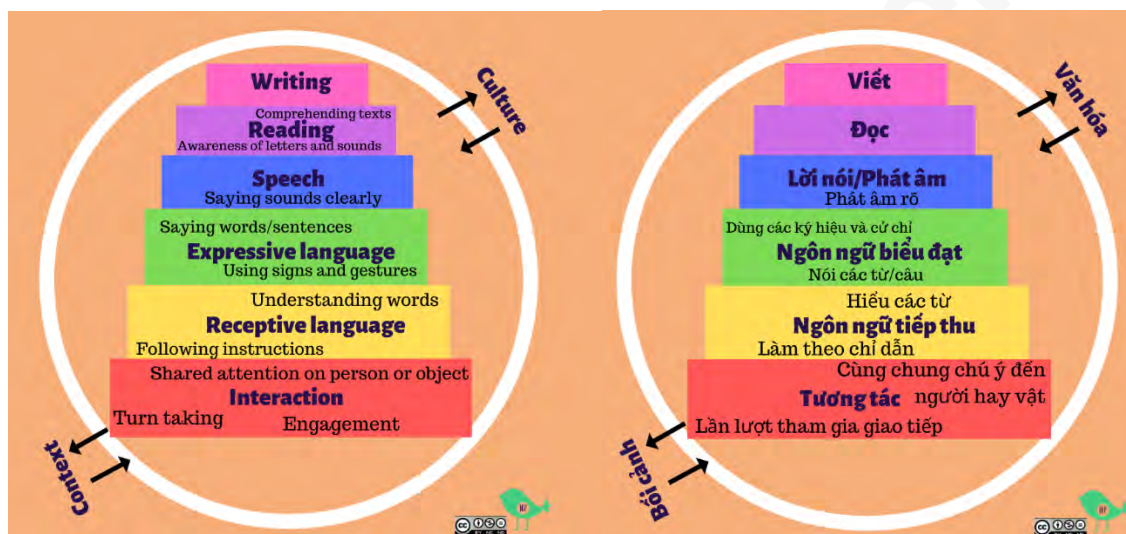


6. Children's communication development

Six areas of children's communication that develop over time.

1. Interaction: shared attention on the person or object, engagement with others, turn taking
2. Receptive language: Understanding words, following instructions
3. Expressive language: Using signs and gestures, saying words and sentences
4. Speech: Using speech sounds in words, having clear speech that others can easily understand
5. Reading
6. Writing



- Children communicate and interact from the moment they are born. As they grow they understand and use more and more complex speech and language.
- Children make a lot of different sounds when they are babies. They communicate by looking, babbling, crying and pointing.
- When they are around 1 year old, children say their first words and take their first steps.
- By 2 years old they start putting words together into very short sentences. They continue to increase the length and complexity of their sentences over time, learning more grammar.
- By 5 years old, children can pronounce almost all of their consonants correctly and are intelligible (understood) even by strangers. Also, at this stage they begin to become interested in reading and writing, skills that take many years to master.
- Children's speech and language development can influence how well they are able to read and write – so if you are ever worried, contact a speech pathologist for advice and an assessment. The earlier the better.