



Tier 3 words are subject specific and will be rare words only heard within particular contexts or subject areas.

Tier 2 words are focused, descriptive and more common words that are found across subjects.

Tier 1 words are everyday words and will be basic words which will be used from an early age.

Topic Based Vocabulary and Subject Specific

	Autumn 1- Once Upon a Time		
CYCLE A	2 Year Olds (This is Me)	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	me, mummy, daddy, baby, face, hair, eyes, hands, feet	story, book, big, small, forest, house, castle, storyteller, read	beginning, middle, end, once, next
Tier 2	same, different, happy, sad	character, problem, ending, describe, retell	setting, sequence, narrator, compare, version
Tier 3	body parts (head, tummy), family, feelings	traditional tale, turret, drawbridge, throne, villain, hero	plot, moral, traditional stories, medieval,

	Autumn 2- Let's Celebrate		
CYCLE A	2 Year Olds Autumn Colours and Christmas	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	leaf, tree, red, yellow, cold, snow, lights	party, lights, food, family, friends	invite, share, decorate
Tier 2	change, colour, shiny, soft	tradition, special, festival, gather	community, occasion, symbol, represent
Tier 3	Autumn, decorate, celebration, Christmas	celebration, ceremony, culture, religion, Diwali, Hanukkah	diversity, customs, heritage, ritual

	Spring 1- Dinosaurs, Dragons and Magic		
CYCLE A	2 Year Olds (Dinosaurs)	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	big, small, roar, tail, teeth, egg	teeth, tail, egg	stomp, roar, hatch
Tier 2	loud, strong, stomp	extinct, enormous, fierce, protect	evidence, discover, investigate, habitat
Tier 3	dinosaur, bones	fossil, palaeontologist, herbivore, carnivore, skeleton	excavation, species, prehistoric, meteor

	Spring 2- Amazing Africa		
CYCLE A	2 Year Olds (The Zoo)	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	lion, monkey, elephant, giraffe, big, loud	hot, sun, animals, water	travel, journey
Tier 2	spotty, stripy, tall, heavy	pattern, explore, compare	environment, similarities, differences, culture
Tier 3	zoo, home(for animals), keeper	savannah, continent, climate, community	equator, migration, ecosystem

	Summer 1- Helping Hands/ People who Help Us		
CYCLE A	2 Year Olds (People Who Help Us)	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	doctor, nurse, police, firefighter, help	help, safe, hurt, doctor, police	call, signal
Tier 2	safe, danger	emergency, risk(that's not safe), rescue	responsibility, community, respond
Tier 3	Ambulance, fire engine,	paramedic, firefighter, equipment, uniform	first aid, radio, walkie-talkie

	Summer 2- A Ticket to Ride/ Journeys		
CYCLE A	2 Year Olds (Pirates/Seaside)	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	boat, sand, sea, hat, treasure	car, bus, train, boat, go, stop, road, track	past, now
Tier 2	wet, splash, float, sink	travel, journey, move	timeline, explore, direction, distance
Tier 3	pirate, map, ship, island	transport, vehicle, route,	aviation, invention, navigation, engineer

	Autumn 1- Marvellous Me		
CYCLE B	2 Year Olds (Marvellous Me)	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	me, name, friend, play	body, face, hair, family	healthy, strong
Tier 2	kind, share, special	unique, feelings, belong,	characteristics, emotions, respect, choices
Tier 3	identity(simple: "who am I"), feelings, family	individuality, similarities, differences	diversity, individuality, wellbeing

	Autumn 2- Antarctica		
CYCLE B	2 Year Olds (Winter/Christmas)	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	snow, cold, hat, coat, tree	freezing, ice, snow, water	winter, storm
Tier 2	Freeze, melt, warm	thaw, slippery	temperature, survive, adapt
Tier 3	winter, Christmas, celebration	polar, habitat, iceberg	climate, expedition, Antarctic, research station, Antarctica

	Spring 1- Out of this World/ Space		
CYCLE B	2 Year Olds (Is there anything above the clouds/ Weather and Rainbows)	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	rain, sun, cloud, wind, sky	moon, star, dark, rocket	launch, space
Tier 2	Bright, dark, noisy (thunder)	shine, float	gravity, atmosphere, explore, orbit
Tier 3	Rainbow, storm, weather	astronaut, planet, galaxy	solar system, crater, spacecraft, astronaut names (e.g., Armstrong)

	Spring 2- Mad about Minibeasts		
CYCLE B	2 Year Olds (Bugs Life)	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	Bug, worm, spider, fly, wings	minibeast, caterpillar, slug, snail	soil, leaf
Tier 2	Tiny, crawl, wriggle	miniature, grow	miniscule, life cycle, predator, prey
Tier 3	Insect, feelers	insect, antennae, habitat	metamorphosis, species, ecosystem, chrysalis

	Summer 1- Ready, Steady, Grow!		
CYCLE B	2 Year Olds (Garden and Growing)	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	Plant, seed, water, sun, mud	plant, seed, water, sun	soil, pot
Tier 2	Grow, big, help	grow, care, changes	germinate, nurture, observe
Tier 3	Roots, stem, flower	roots, stem, petals	photosynthesis (introduced simply), nutrients, lifecycle

	Summer 2- On the Farm!		
CYCLE B	2 Year Olds (The Farm/Baby Animals)	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	cow, pig, sheep, horse, hen, duck, baby, mummy	cow, pig, sheep, tractor, hay	milk, wool, grain
Tier 2	Soft, loud, muddy	crops, field, feed	produce, agriculture, process
Tier 3	Farm, tractor, calf, lamb, chick	harvest, farmer, barn	livestock, machinery, irrigation

Art and Design			
	2 Year Olds	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	Yellow, blue, green, red, paint, brush, hands / fingers, circle, line, face, glue, stick, big, small, soft, hard	Draw, paint, brush, shape, mix, cut, stick, colour names, tape, glue stick, beads, stamp	Fine brush, cut, stick, picture, model, shape names, colour words
Tier 2	Smooth, rough, shiny, pattern, mark, press, squeeze, roll, dab	Detail, contrast, repeat, thick, thin, straight, curved, light, dark, smooth, bumpy, join, create, design	Symmetry, features, texture words, tint, shade, edit, improve, accurate, express
Tier 3	printing, clay, playdoh, model, tools,	Primary colours, secondary colours, pattern, weave, print, mark-making, texture, self-portrait, materials	Primary colours, secondary colours, tint, shade, warm/ cool colours, weaving, collage, sculpture, observational drawing,

Design and Technology			
	2 Year Olds	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	Circle, line, face, glue, stick, big, small, soft, hard	Shape, cut, stick, tape, glue stick, beads, stamp	cut, stick, picture, model, shape names
Tier 2	Smooth, rough, shiny, pattern, mark, press, squeeze, roll, dab, join, attach,	fold, cut, stick firmly, fix	edit, improve, accurate, express
Tier 3	texture, printing, clay, playdough model, features, tools	Tear, joins	weaving, collage, sculpture, tab, slot

	Personal, Social and Emotional Development		
	2 Year Olds	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	happy, sad, angry, tired, bye, mine, share, help, stop, wait, friend	Angry, scared, worried, share, turn, kind, friend, help	Excited, safe, unsafe, rules, friendship, proud
Tier 2	calm, kind, gentle, quiet, loud, worried, brave, together, take turns	Frustrated, confident, patient, fair, unfair, calm down, solve, similar, different	Independent, respectful, responsible, persevere, choices, empathy, resilient
Tier 3	feelings, emotions, rules, safe, choices, problem (simple), family, helping adult	self-regulation, managing feelings, healthy choices, hygiene, listening, cooperation, taking turns	self-regulation, goal-setting, problem-solving, conflict resolution, hygiene routines, healthy habits

	Physical Development		
	2 Year Olds	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	run, jump, walk, stop, go, push, pull, up, down, fast, slow, ball, eat, drink	hop, skip, climb, roll, bounce, throw, catch, pour, scoop, cut, build	balance, jump high, jump far, reach, throw run faster, pedal, climb safely
Tier 2	heavy, light, big, small, stretch, bend, strong, tired, careful	steady, wobbly, carefully, stronger, weaker, fit, healthy, practice	controlled, accurate, confident, stamina, flexible, balanced
Tier 3	Balance, climb, grip, hold, kick, throw, catch, wash hands, toileting	- fine motor, gross motor, coordination, healthy eating, hygiene, spatial awareness	- core strength, agility, fine motor control, healthy lifestyle, safe risk-taking

	Communication and Language		
	2 Year Olds	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	Hello, bye, more, mine, yes, no, look, go, stop, big, little, mummy, daddy, drink, cup, book	Why, who, where, when, because, and, play, friends, help, wait, listen, look, sorry	Think, remember, ask, tell, show, explain, why, how, everyone, idea, good afternoon, good morning, you're welcome
Tier 2	Happy, sad, tired, loud, quiet, fast, slow, where, what, my turn, your turn	Frustrated, excited, worried, first, next, then, before, after, different, same,	Predict, compare, detail, sequence, past, present, future, how are you?, please can I have?, what is your name?, it's nice to meet you, excuse me please
Tier 3	Listen, talk, story, question, share, choose, feelings, words	Conversation, question, explain, describe, retell, rhymes, stories, topic words	- back-and-forth, discussion, retell, reasoning, vocabulary, non-fiction language, questioning, articulate

	Writing		
	2 Year Olds	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	Mark-making, draw, line, dots, name, pen, pencil, paper, big, small	Write, letters, name, copy, draw, words, list, label	Sentence, story, word, letter, title, full stop
Tier 2	Round, straight, curvy, soft, hard, press, light	First, next, last, across, down, circle, cross, pattern	Capital, finger space, neat, clear, beginning, middle, end
Tier 3	mark-make, scribble, lines, shapes, grip, hold, name-writing	letter-formation, left to right, phoneme, initial sound, CVC words, spaces	Segment, blend, tricky words, phonics, composition, punctuation

	Reading		
	2 Year Olds	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	Book, story, page, look, see, picture, read, again	Story, rhyme, song, page turn, characters, beginning	Sentence, word, sound, story map, title, cover
Tier 2	Same, different, rhyming, funny, scary, big, little, picture, the end	Predict, match, notice, initial sound, pattern	Blending, segmenting, digraph, infer, sequence, event, front cover, plot, once upon a time
Tier 3	Title, repeat, rhyme, sound, story time	rhyming pair, syllables, alliteration, left to right, print has meaning, retell, author, illustration	phonic knowledge, common exception words, fluency, retrieval, prediction, prosody

	Maths		
	2 Year Olds	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	Count, more, big, small, full, empty, in, out, up, down	Number, count, more, less, shape, first, next, forwards, backwards, in front, behind, on top, underneath	add, take away, whole, part, share, group, over, under, through, around, beside, in between
Tier 2	Bigger, smaller, long, short, heavy, light, match, sort, circle, square	Equal, longer, shorter, taller, heavier, lighter, repeat, pair, round, straight, triangle, rectangle, corner, curve, zig zag	Fewer, greater, equal to, sequence, order, double, halve, weight, capacity, length, volume, pentagon, hexagon, octagon, edge, sphere, cube, cuboid, pyramid, cylinder
Tier 3	Number, shape, pattern, counting, order, compare, group	Subitise, numeral, pattern, AB pattern, one more, one less	number bonds, subitise, composition, ten frame, odd/even, quantities, vertices/ faces, teen numbers,

	Music		
	2 Year Olds	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	Music, song, sing, loud, quiet, fast, slow, bang, tap, clap	Dance, beat, play, drum, shaker	Instrument, perform, group sing, clap to the beat, start, stop
Tier 2	Soft, heavy sound, light sound, repeat, copy, same, different	Louder, quieter, faster, slower, high, low, smooth, jumpy	steady beat, melody, tempo, pitch, in time
Tier 3	Beat, rhythm, sound, instrument, voice	Dynamics, pattern, pulse	Composition, notation (simple)

	Science		
	2 Year Olds	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	Hot, cold, wet, dry, big, small, animal, plant, water, rain	Push, pull, flower, leaf, tree, sun, snow, ice, sound	Roots, stem, petal, soil, weather, season, animal names
Tier 2	Heavy, light, loud, quiet, fast, slow, soft, hard, change	float, sink, melt, freeze, lifecycle, habitat, similar, different	Predict, classify, temperature, change state, food chain
Tier 3	Material, weather, grow, life cycle (simple), shadow	Magnet, observe, experiment	offspring, properties, magnets, cause and effect

	Geography		
	2 Year Olds	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	Home, house, road, tree, park, car, rain, sun, hot, cold	Village, town, shop, river, hill, street, bus, train	Country, sea, land, mountain, weather, map
Tier 2	Near, far, same, different, big, small, weather, place	Similar, different, local area, direction, left, right, feature	Environment, address, route, journey, compare, describe
Tier 3	Map, village, town	Symbols, UK, continent(exposure), compare	United Kingdom, continent, ocean, human features, physical features, North, South, East, West

	History		
	2 Year Olds	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	Baby, child, grown up, family, home, now, today, morning, night, old, new	Toddler, adult, elderly, day, week, season, school	Yesterday, today, tomorrow, week, month, year, celebration, family, story
Tier 2	Before, after, same, different, change	First, next, then, similar, different, past, present	Compare, order, important, significant
Tier 3	Memory, yesterday, time, sequence (simple)	Timeline (simple), family tree, before, after	Chronological, timeline, sources (photos and objects), past, present

	Religious Education		
	2 Year Olds	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	Family, home, happy, sad, friends, share, help, special, party, picture	Birthday, music, food, visit, dress up	Celebrate, story, share, thank you, community
Tier 2	Different, same, special day, together, belong	Belonging, respect, similar, different, celebration, special place, special book	Believe, respectful, kindness, peaceful, important, tradition, values
Tier 3	Festival, story, church, pray (simple), tradition	Christian, Jesus, Bible, mosque, church, temple, festival names (Christmas, Eid, Diwali), symbol	Christianity, Islam, Qur'an, prayer, beliefs

	Computing		
	2 Year Olds	Nursery	Reception
Tier 1	button, screen, tap, on, off, press, phone, iPad	Computer, click, swipe, drag, type, photo, video, sound, game	Keyboard, mouse, search, app. Website, camera
Tier 2	Same, different, choose, move, control, stop, start	Predict, instructions, forward, backward, problem, fix,	Sequence, debug, correct, private, trusted adult, online safety
Tier 3	Technology, device, beebot, safe, information	Program, code (simple), command, icon, digital content, personal information	Algorithm, programming, debugging, retrieve information, create content, digital footprint