

What are Speech, Language and Communication needs?

The pupil may have difficulties with expressive language (talking and using their words), receptive language (understanding of language), speech (how they produce their sounds) or the social and functional use of language.

What might this look like?

The pupil may struggle with:

- attending to teacher-talk
- concentration
- formulating sentences. They may have difficulties with the word order and it can sound jumbled.
- vocabulary difficulties e.g. difficulties finding the right word or using the word correctly
- most aspects of literacy
- retention because of not understanding the language
- beginning a task
- learning
- remembering and using new language
- a lot of instructions given at once, or coming up with an answer quickly
- composition
- remembering and writing down a sentence
- making friends
- social skills such as eye contact or turn taking.
- present as a behaviour challenge or be quiet and/ or timid.

Top Tips

1. Reduce teacher talk.
2. Talk slowly – but with normal intonation/emphasis
3. An environment that has plenty of visual structure/ prompts. (For example, visual timetables, key words etc.)
4. Pre teach new words, give opportunity to overlearn.
5. Increase 'modelling' of expectations.
6. Limit distracting noise in the classroom.
7. Check understanding by saying the pupil name and asking what they need to do 'first'.
8. Break tasks into smaller chunks so that they can be completed in shorter periods of time.
9. Offer a handout with instructions to complete a task that they can refer to, should they forget what they are doing.
10. Teach strategies to support organisation e.g. making lists, sequencing events, drawing up timetables.
11. Write/ draw personalised prompts of what the pupil needs to do.
12. Increase writing scaffolds and frames to support language development.
13. Support in making choices – offer forced alternatives "red or blue?"
14. Increase 'take up' time.

Further Advice

Useful Websites:

Leeds Speech and Language Toolkit:
<https://www.leedscommunityhealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services-a-z/child-speech-and-language-therapy/speech-and-language-therapy-toolkit/>

Talking Point

<https://ican.org.uk/i-cans-talking-point/>