

SPEECH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES

What's Typical Talk at Primary?

Attention, Listening and Understanding

- Starts to ignore unimportant information
- Is aware when a message is unclear and comments or asks for explanation.
- Understands complex 2-to-3-part instructions:

e.g. "Finish your picture from yesterday then with a partner, choose one of the topic books and talk about it quietly on the carpet."

Vocabulary

- Compares words, the way they look, sound or mean:
e.g. "There are two words 'sea' at the beach, and you 'see' with your eyes."
- Can guess the word from clues, or give others clues using shape, size, function etc.
- Uses newly learnt words in a specific and appropriate way:
e.g. "Dad, you know when you have lots of lions together it is called a pride of lions."

Speech Sounds, Grammar and Sentence Building

- Speech is clear with occasional errors, especially with consonant blends.
- Has good knowledge of sounds in words.
- Asks lots of questions to find out specific information including 'How' and 'Why'.
- Uses different ways to join phrases to help explain or justify an event:

e.g. "I'm older than you so I will go first."

5 – 7 Years



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Verbal Storytelling and Narrative

- Tells stories that set the scene, have a basic plot and a sequence of events.
- Begins to be aware of what the listener already knows and checks:
e.g. "You know where I live, right? In that big house by the shop..."
- Accurately predicts what will happen in a story.

Conversations and Social Interaction

- Take turns to talk, listen, and respond in two-way conversations and groups.
- Keeps to a topic but can be easily prompted to move on if necessary.
- Copies others' language and begins to be aware of current peer language:
e.g. Copies swear words, says 'Cool', or 'Yeah right.'
- Uses and experiments with different styles of talking with different people.

