

SPEECH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES

What's Typical Talk at Primary?

Attention, Listening and Understanding

- Listens to key information and makes relevant, related comments:
e.g. "So all mammals are warm blooded, have fur or hair and their babies all drink milk."
- Identifies clearly when they haven't understood:
e.g. "What's maize?" or "Get a blue what?"
- Able to infer meaning, reason and predict:
e.g. "it's getting very hot in here," means to open the window.

Vocabulary

- Uses a range of words related to time and measurement:
e.g. century, calendar, breadth.
- Uses a wide range of verbs to express their thoughts, or about cause and effect:
e.g. "I wonder what she's thinking," or, "If we run we should get there but we might arrive late."
- Joins in on discussions about an activity using topic vocabulary:
e.g. "I saw some chicken eggs hatching in the incubator on the farm last Friday."

Speech Sounds, Grammar and Sentence Building

- Speech is clear, uses words with three sounds together or words with lots of syllables:
e.g. splash or string; rhinoceros or identical.
- Uses regular and unusual word endings:
e.g. walked or fell.
- Uses complex grammar and sentences to clarify, summarise, explain and plan:
e.g. "So the bee collects the pollen from the stamen and then flies to another flower and pollinates it."

7-9 Years



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Verbal Storytelling and Narrative

- Stories have a good structure with a distinct plot, an exciting event, clear resolution and conclusion:
e.g. "...and everyone got home safely which was great."
- Uses intonation to make storytelling and reports exciting and interesting.
- Adds detail or leaves information out according to how much is already known by the listener.

Conversations and Social Interaction

- Uses formal language when appropriate in some familiar situations:
e.g. Showing a visitor around school.
- Understands conversational rules:
e.g. Looks at listener to judge feedback. Gives more detail if needed.
- Uses tone of voice, stress on words and gestures naturally to add meaning.
- Uses language for full range of different reasons:
e.g. complimenting, criticising, negotiating.

