

SPEECH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES

What's Typical Talk at Primary?

Attention, Listening and Understanding

- Sustains active listening to both what is said and the way it is said.
- Follows longer instructions that are not familiar:
e.g. "Put the stripy folder that's on top of the cupboard into the bottom drawer of my desk."
- Understands different question types:
e.g. open, closed, rhetorical.
- Understands simple jokes and simple idioms, but can't really explain why they are funny or what they mean:
e.g. You can't have your cake and eat it too.

Vocabulary

- Makes choices from a wide and varied vocabulary:
e.g. 'Leap' instead of 'jump', 'terrified' instead of 'frightened'.
- Uses sophisticated words but the meaning might not always be accurate:
e.g. "My bedroom was meticulous."
- Knows that words can have two meanings and uses them appropriately. Can't always explain how they are linked:
e.g. 'Hard' (rigid object and tough person).

Speech Sounds, Grammar and Sentence Building

- Uses long and complex sentence structures:
e.g. "I will come with you only because it means you will stop going on at me."
- Uses questions to help conversations flow.
- Sentences average about 7 to 10 words – longer in stories than in conversation.
- Knows when a sentence is not grammatically correct and can explain rules of grammar.

9-11 Years



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Verbal Storytelling and Narrative

- Tells elaborate, entertaining stories which are full of detailed descriptions.
- Everyday language is detailed and not always about their immediate experience.
- Incorporates a subplot in telling stories and recalling events, before resolving the main storyline.
- Uses complex joining words:

e.g. meanwhile, therefore.

Conversations and Social Interaction

- Uses different language depending on where they are, who they are with, and what they are doing:
e.g. Formal style with the headteacher in school; relaxed and informal with family at home; and 'cool' language with friends in the park.
- Communicates successfully; shares ideas and information, gives and receives advice, and offers and takes notice of opinions
- Realises when people don't fully understand and tries to help them.

